Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-88-239 *13 December 1988*

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U.S. 'Aggression' Against Panama Condemned

PA1012184488 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 1

[Resolution issued by the Latin American Parliament in Panama City on 9 December]

[Text] The Board of Directors of the Latin American Parliament, meeting in Panama City, Republic of Panama, reaffirms the terms of the resolutions approved by the organization's Political Commission at a meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, (from 7-9 April 1988) and by the Parliament's General Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina, (from 27-29 August 1988) regarding the current economic and political situation in Panama. Those resolutions included the following:

"1. To vigorously condemn the aggression to which the Republic of Panama has been subjected by the United States of America, an aggression that violates Panama's sovereignty and its right to be a free, independent country.

"2. To express to the Panamanian people, through their Legislative Assembly, solidarity in this difficult crisis and, in the name of Latin American legislators, to call for an immediate end to the aggression.

"3. To request that those parliamentarians of the organization's member states who have not already done so immediately issue statements in support of the Panamanian people.

"4. To express its most fervent hope that, within the shortest possible time, this sister nation will return to normal, within a framework of peace and full respect for democratic rights."

Group of 8 Finance Ministers Meet in Rio

PY0912145288 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0930 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Seven Latin American finance ministers will meet in Rio de Janeiro on 12 December. The foreign debt is the ministers primary concern.

The meeting is a result of the presidential meeting that addressed the same issue in Punta del Este, where the chiefs of state instructed the ministers to find an agreed upon solution to the problem. Civilian Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto explained the Brazilian Government position.

[Begin recording] The Brazilian Government does not demand a new international moratorium. It wants to promote cooperation in order to find a better solution to the problem, which affects both creditors and debtors. Brazil does not want a confrontation. The idea is to find practical and intelligent solutions that are compatible with our situation.

[Reporter] Is this the position that the finance minister will uphold at the finance ministers' meeting?

[Costa Couto] This is the Brazilian Government position: To reduce the stock of the debt and, through this reduction, reduce the servicing of the debt. [end recording]

A document will be drawn up during the ministerial meeting. The document will be delivered to the presidents, who are scheduled to meet again in February.

Communique Issued

PY1212233688 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The finance ministers of the most indebted Latin American countries are meeting in Rio de Janeiro to discuss the foreign debt problem.

The finance ministers of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, as well as a Mexican representative, spent the entire day at the Finance Ministry building in Rio de Janeiro.

The main issue of discussion was debt reduction as a prerequisite for economic growth.

When the meeting ended, the ministers released a joint communique, asking for an emergency program to reduce debt payments and increased financing for economic growth.

The governments of the main Latin American debtor countries will make a joint effort to reduce the transfer of money abroad and to renew growth without inflation.

Free Zones Group To Fight U.S. Restrictions

PY1012025888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Manaus, 9 Dec (EFE)—The Latin American and Caribbean free zones [zonas francas] will exert pressure on their respective governments to start negotiating with the United States to prevent the possible implementation of restrictive trade measures.

Francisco Monteiro Neto, Latin American Trade Exporting Companies Association advisor, explained on 8 December that the Latin American and Caribbean countries could offer the United States guarantees for the establishment of U.S. companies in their free zones.

Monteiro explained that this way the Latin American and Caribbean countries would receive new technologies, more foreign currency, and industrial raw materials, while the other party would obtain cheap labor, tax exemptions, and the possibility of re-importing their own products.

The protocol for this project is part of the "Manaus Charter" signed on 8 December by ministers and representatives of 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries attending the final activities of the second meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Free Zones Association (AZOLCA), which was ending in Manaus, the Amazonas State capital.

Delegates of the countries that signed the "Manaus Charter" will travel to New York, probably in February 1989, to analyze with the U.S. private sector the possibility of manufacturing in the Latin American and Caribbean free zones the products that the United States currently imports from other parts of the world such as Asia. They hope to be able to manufacture these products in the short term.

Monteiro Neto pointed out that if the United States decided to manufacture these products in Latin America instead of Asia, the costs would be reduced, and the U.S. trade deficit—which now totals $160 billion—would also be reduced.

The Latin American representative pointed out that by doing this the U.S. economy would be improved and the United States would be contributing to the development of its Latin American allies.

Monteiro explained that the Latin American countries would request special customs fees for the products manufactured in the region by U.S. companies. He clarified that the amount to be reduced from these fees would be negotiated by the two parties.

The AZOLCA would be responsible for determining which products would receive this special treatment and for representing AZOLCA interests before the governments of its member countries [passage indistict] tax exemption.

The AZOLCA would also analyze how to obtain a similarly special treatment for these products in other countries and in the domestic market.

The United Nations, which supported the AZOLCA meeting in Manaus, promised to study the problems, goals, and prospects of the free zones, and to analyze how AZOLCA can contribute to the process of regional economic integration.

The main concern of the participants in the AZOLCA meeting, which started on 5 December, was to establish the Latin American position in the face of economic blocs such as the EEC, the Asian bloc, and the U.S.-Canadian bloc.

The document signed in Manaus also calls for joint action from the region's countries in responding to the economic restrictions that the developed countries, particularly the United States, may implement.

Cuba

Historic Protocol Signed in Brazzaville

Alarcon on Talks

FL0912150988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1324 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The quadripartite talks on southwest Africa have been the main subject of a news conference granted by Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon at the international press center located at the Habana Libre Hotel. Alarcon talked to a large group of local and foreign reporters on the outlook for a possible agreement. The Cuban foreign vice minister answered a question related to this posed by Irma Caceres, reporter from the Cuban television news services.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I think that, regarding the negotiations' possibilities, we must take into account, on the one hand, the unusual way—to say the least—in which the negotiations in Brazzaville were interrupted when one of the parties literally fled the hotel where we were gathered without giving you, or any other member of the press, answers to the legitimate question: What happened and what is going to happen now?

Faced with this problem which, naturally, is cause for concern because perhaps the most important thing in any agreement between states or people is a minimum of seriousness between the ones signing the agreement. Faced with the type of conduct that was seen last Saturday night in Brazzaville, anyone would have a reason to doubt the seriousness of one of the parties at the meeting.

However, I would say that the parties are still in contact via the mediator. Dr Crocker is continuing his efforts to make advances in the process we are involved in. I was previously asked about verification. I quoted Mr Redman and said that I agreed with him on the subject [as heard].

As you know, a number of agreements have been reached throughout these months of patient, complex, and long negotiations. We could say, to repeat what Comrade Fidel said this past Monday, that we are actually very close to an agreement in Brazzaville. This has also been noted by Mr Redman in his statement, to which I have already alluded.

The strange thing about the final escapade that took place last Saturday night is that the points that still need to be resolved are very concrete, but also very important.

I would say at this point, the core of the matter is to agree on two basic questions.

First: When are we going to meet to sign the agreements we have already fundamentally agreed on? In Brazzaville we were actually involved in some details of other matters unrelated to the date.

Second: What day, and on what date, will we recommend to the United Nations for implementing Resolution 435—and I repeat—in its entirety, to the letter, as it was approved 10 years ago, without modifications or last-minute alterations? We yet have to agree on this matter.

Ask the other party for reasons. Angola and Cuba agreed, even before going to Brazzaville, with the dates the mediator suggested to us. In other words, we were willing to sign the agreements in New York this week as it was proposed to us before. Since, obviously, time ran out and it was impossible to do such a thing, we proposed in Brazzaville that the agreement be signed the following week. It was not possible because the other party needs to be willing to sign.

Regarding the implementation date for Resolution 435, the joint Angolan-Cuban position is that it should be done closest to the time the United Nations stipulates. That is, the United Nations has always told us that it requires a period of time between the day the agreements are signed—the day we finally announce to the world in an official, formal, and legal manner that the conflict has been solved—and the day they begin to implement Resolution 435. In order to implement it, they have to transfer Secretariat personnel, UN military contingents to the Namibian territory and other logistical and operational elements need to be worked out. They estimate they will need some weeks to do this. Those weeks and only those weeks is the period of time Cuba and Angola accept between the day the agreements are signed and the day the resolution begins to be implemented.

In other words, we are willing to sign those agreements now if, of course, the agreements include an acceptable date, a date which is not the result of new delays and new maneuvers to extend the illegal occupation of Namibia, which for us, is the fundamental problem.

If you ask any South African spokesman, he cannot respond in the same way—unless he fails to tell the truth. If he wants to challenge us to prove that they are not willing to either sign the three-way agreement or to begin implementing Resolution 435 at the time the United Nations is ready, which I repeat—it would be a few weeks after the signing of the three-way agreement—we could prove that he is lying. [end recording]

Delegation Arrives in Congo

FL1212222188 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2132 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the quadripartite talks arrived today in Brazzaville, Congo, where tomorrow the protocol will be signed which will (?determine) the future of the previously adopted resolution.

According to reports from the Congo, the protocol is the same one which caused the South African delegation to leave the Brazzaville meeting early this month. International sources state that the Cuban and U.S. delegations—the United States acted as mediator in the quadripartite talks—coincidentally arrived at the same time at the (Islasalle) airport where they had a technical layover on their way to Africa.

PRENSA LATINA press agency states that the protocol to be signed tomorrow by Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States as a mediator sets dates. The protocol states that South Africa must withdraw on a set date, and that it [the date] must be determined as a preliminary step for that country to hold elections and to be an independent nation. This proposal is contained in the UN Security Council Resolution No 435, approved in 1978. The agreements adopted in New York last summer, say that the resolution must be applied without any modifications.

The quadripartite talks between Cuba, Angola, South Africa, and the United States as mediator began in London last May, and rounds were held in Cairo, New York, Geneva, and four times in Brazzaville. A break was held a week ago when, surprisingly, the Pretoria delegation left the meeting without offering a reason.

1 Apr 1989 Implementation Day

MB1312111188 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] South Africa, Cuba, and Angola this morning formally signed the historic Brazzaville Protocol governing the independence of South-West Africa and the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola. In terms of the protocol, the date for the implementation of UN Resolution 435 has been fixed for 1 April, 1989. The final trilateral agreement will be ratified at ministerial level in New York on December 22.

The Brazzaville Protocol was signed a short while ago on behalf of South Africa by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha. It was signed on behalf of Cuba by a senior member of the Cuban central committee, Mr Ricardo Alarcon Quesada. The chief of the Angolan Defense Force, General Antonio Franca Ndalu, signed on behalf of Angola.

One of the first consequences of the signing of the protocol could be the return home of prisoner-of-war in Cuba Sergeant Johan Papenfus. The protocol stipulates, among other things, that as far as prisoners of war are concerned, Sgt Papenfus will be released after the signing of the trilateral agreement in New York on December 22. Observers expect Sgt Papenfus to return to South Africa early in the new year.

The timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola over a period of 27 months was also announced today. It entails the withdrawal of a vanguard of 3,000 Cuban troops before implementation day on 1 April. Within 4 months after that, all Cuban troops in Angola will have to move north of the 15th degree line of latitude. On election day in South-West Africa, 7 months after 1 April, all Cuban troops will have to withdraw to positions north of the 13th degree line of latitude, which coincides with the Benguela railway line about 600 km north of the South-West African border.

At the same time, that is, at the end of the first 7-month period, 25,000 Cuban troops must have left Angola, that is, 50 percent of the estimated 50,000. After 12 months, 33,000 troops or 66 percent must have left Angola. After 18 months from implementation day, 38,000 Cubans must be out of Angola, that is, 76 percent of the total number of troops. By the end of the 27th month from implementation day all 50,000 Cuban troops must be out of Angola.

The Brazzaville Protocol signed today also stipulates that a bilateral agreement governing the Cuban withdrawal will be signed by Angola and Cuba on December 22. By that time, Angola and Cuba are obliged to have reached an agreement with the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr Perez de Cullar, on the verification of the withdrawal.

These procedures will have to be approved of by the Security Council of the United Nations.

Protocol Points Detailed

MB1312092788 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0926 GMT 13 Dec 88

[By Pierre Claassen]

[Text] Brazzaville, Dec 13, SAPA—SWA/Namibia's independence process is to start on April Fool's Day next year with the last Cuban soldier destined to leave Angola 27 months later.

The Brazzaville protocol, due to be signed by South Africa, Cuba and Angola at 11am [1000 GMT] today makes provision for UN Security Council Resolution 435 on independence to be implemented on April 1 next year and for the signing of a trilateral treaty in New York on December 22 this year.

The protocol stipulates that Angola and Cuba will reach a bilateral agreement, subject to security council approval, on verification arrangements before the New York signing.

It also makes provisions for the establishment of a joint commission immediately after the New York signing on which the United States and Soviet Union and, ultimately the newly independent Namibia, will be represented.

The commission will deal with any disputes arising from the implementation or interpretation of the tripartite treaty, but will not prejudice any parties' right to seek redress via the security council, or "pursue such means of dispute resolution as are available under international law."

The parties have, in the preamble to the protocol, thanked Congo Brazzaville's president, Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso and his government, for their "indispensable contribution to the cause of peace" and hospitality and called on the international community to provide economic and financial support for the implementation of "all aspects" of the settlement.

Mr Pik Botha, South Africa's foreign affairs minister, in revealing the content of the protocol en route to Brazzaville today, said the South African government was now satisfied with the verification arrangements.

Steady Withdrawal Stressed

MB1312094088 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0933 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Brazzaville Dec 13 SAPA—The only outstanding documentation was the Geneva Protocol which would be released with the New York signing. It is known that the Cubans have opposed the publication of this document.

Mr Botha said the agreement provided that, with the Namibian independence implementation date designated as D-Day, Cuba had to withdraw 3,000 troops by that date, 25,000 (50 per cent) by D-Day plus seven months (election date), 33,000 (66 per cent) by D-Day plus 12 months, 38,000 (76 per cent) by D-Day plus 18 months and 50,000 (100 per cent) by D-Day plus 27 months.

By D-Day plus four months, the Cubans must be north of the 15th parallel (a line from the port of Namibe to Quito), and by D-Day plus seven months, north of the 15th—the Benguela line.

After the signing ceremony the parties are to attend a reception and return to their respective countries, he said.

The document ended an era of history which started with the German annexation of SWA/Namibia in the last century, Mr Botha said.

It brings to an end a 40-year-long international dispute between South Africa and the international community and will end 12 years of war in Angola.

'Full Text' of Protocol

MB1312095288 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0951 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Brazzaville, Dec 13, SAPA—Herewith full text of the Brazzaville accord and annex:

The delegations of the governments of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of South Africa meeting in Brazzaville with the mediation of the government of the U.S. of America:

Expressing their deep appreciation to the president of the People's Republic of the Congo, Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso, for his indispensable contribution to the cause of peace in southwestern Africa and for the hospitality extended to the delegations by the government of the People's Republic of the Congo;

Confirming the commitment to act in accordance with the principle for peaceful settlement in southwestern Africa initialed in New York on July 13 and approved by the respective governments on July 20 1988, each of which is indispensable to a comprehensive settlement;

With the understandings reached in Geneva on August 5, 1988, that are not superseded by this document and with the agreement reached in Geneva on November 15 for the redeployment to the north and the staged and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola;

Urging the international community to provide economic and financial support for the implementation of all aspects of this settlement, agree as follows:

1. The parties agree to recommend to the secretary general of the United nations that 1 April be established as the date for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78.
2. The parties agree to meet on 22 December 1988 in New York for signature of a tripartite agreement and for signature by Angola and Cuba of their bilateral agreement. By the date of signature Angola and Cuba shall have reached agreement with the secretary General of the United Nations on verification arrangements to be approved by the security council.
3. The parties agree to exchange prisoners of war on the signing of the tripartite agreement.
4. The parties agree to establish a joint commission in accordance with the annex attached to this agreement.

The annex:

1. With the objective of facilitating the resolution of any dispute and regarding the interpretation or implementation of the tripartite agreement, the parties will establish a joint commission which shall begin its work upon the signing of the tripartite agreement.

2. The joint commission shall serve as a forum for discussion and resolution of issues regarding the interpretation and implementation of the tripartite agreement and for such other purposes as the parties may in future mutually agree.

3. The parties invite the U.S.A. and the USSR to participate as observers in the work of the joint commission. Furthermore, they agree that on the independence of Namibia, the Namibian government should be

included as a full member of the joint commission. To that end the parties will extend a formal invitation to the Namibian government to joint the joint commission on the date of namibian independence.

4. The joint commission shall be constituted within 30 days of the signing of the tripartite agreement. The joint commission shall establish its own regulations and rules of proceedings for regular meetings or special meetings which may be requested by any party.

5. The decision or seek the resolution of an issue in the joint commission shall not prejudice the right of that party to raise the issue, as it deems appropriate, before the Security Council or to pursue such other means of dispute resolution as are available under international law. [sentence as received]

6. The joint commission shall in no way function as a substitute for UNTAC (including the monitoring role of UNTAG outside Namibia) or the UN entity performing verification in Angola.

End text

Earthquake Assistance Efforts Continue

Blood, Plasma Arrive

FL1212213088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Report by correspondent Viktor Antilov from Moscow]

[Text] When the Cubana de Aviacion IL-76 landed at the Moscow International Airport, the news spread at the speed of lightning. The blood donated by the legendary hero of the Cuban revolution, the great friend of the Soviets, Comrade Fidel Castro, was among the plasma and the blood donations brought in the plane from Cuba. The interview given by the commander in chief to Soviet reporters at the Jose Marti International Airport was immediately trasmitted on television and radio across all of the Soviet country. Then, the words of solidarity expressed by the Cuban leader were reproduced on the front pages of all the main newspapers.

We are moved by the knowledge that the Cuban people share our pain at these moments; and that there in Cuba, the same as here in the Soviet Union, there are lines of people waiting to donate blood for the victims of the earthquake.

I would like to inform you, brothers, that there is now enough blood for those who need it. As Mikhail Gorbachev said when he visited the area of the catastrophy, the most important thing now is to save those who are still alive under all the rubble, to extract the bodies, [word indistinct] and bury them as it should be done. Two hundred thousand people have already been rescued; many of them need medical attention. Regarding this, it is difficult to overestimate the presence of the Cuban doctors who have arrived in Armenia.

Our press also reported on the future arrival in Armenia of a construction workers contingent. There is no doubt that the Cuban brothers, along with the Soviets, as well as construction workers from other countries will build the city and towns [word indistinct] for those who ended up homeless and lost their loved ones during the earthquake.

Medical Contingent Leaves

FL1212140888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has said farewell at the Jose Marti International Airport to the first group of health workers that will give their solidary assistance to the brother Soviet people in the area of the natural disaster that recently occurred.

The internationalist brigade is comprised of a hundred specialists, nurses, and technicians that come from Havana and the Lenin Hospital in Holguin. The group includes five specialists from the immunoassay center that is carrying SUMA [ultra microanlytic system] equipment for testing blood donations. The group is also taking a 100-bed field hospital.

Also accompanying Fidel to the airport to say farewell to the internationalist medical contingent was PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes, Public Health Minster Julio Teja, and Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuri Petrov.

Our commander in chief told the press that the willingess of each of the health workers to travel to Armenia to help the victims of the earthquake was evident. The workers also expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to cooperate in this solidarity gesture, he said.

Cooperation Efforts Noted

FL1212162588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1314 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Report by Juan Carlos Roque Garcia during "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has called the mobilization of all the Soviet Union in reconstructing Armenia very important.

[Begin Castro recording] This demonstrates all the power and resources of the USSR, of the Republic. I think this is a very eloquent demonstration of the importance of being part of a large community, the importance of being united. If we were united in Latin America and a country experienced a catastrophe, all the other countries would respond.

Besides being symbolic assistance, it is real assistance. Imagine the impact of a tragedy like this on a small nation like Armenia. How many years would it take to recover from that tragedy, 20 years? It can recover in 2 years with the help of all the other Soviet republics. It is an objective demonstration of the importance of belonging to a large community like the Soviet Union.

When our countries, in Latin America for example, experience such a tragedy, they are isolated. They are alone. They receive international assistance, but many times it is only symbolic. A plane goes there with a few things.

Tragedies like this occur every day in the world, but not usually of this magnitude. Something like this happens very infrequently. A tragedy as dramatic as this is not (?very frequent).

The spirit of solidarity between the peoples and the nations of the USSR can be observed there. Everyone is sending aid during this tragic time; in two years they can resolve this problem. [end recording]

Fidel made these remarks minutes after saying farewell to the Cuban doctors traveling to Armenia.

Condolence Book Signed

FL1212125388 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1115 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] We and all our forces are with the beloved Soviet people during this moment of tragedy even though we are aware of our modest possibilities for cooperation, as we are a small country and have limited resources. However, we are not concerned about the volume of this cooperation. Instead, we stress the magnitude of feelings with which we do this.

This was written by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in the book of condolences which was opened at the Soviet Embassy in Cuba on the occasion of the earthquake that caused tens of thousands of victims in various areas of the Soviet Republic of Armenia.

Fidel arrived at the Soviet diplomatic headquarters moments after saying farewell to a group of 10 Cuban doctors and health technicians at the Jose Marti International Airport. The medical staff is part of a contingent that will join the international assistance that the earthquake victims are now receiving. The earthquake affected the Caucasus area last week.

At the airport terminal, Fidel said this assistance is a small expression of what the people want to do but demonstrates their morale, brotherhood, and fraternity with the Soviet people. Standing at the foot of steps leading to the airplane, the chief of the revolution said farewell one-by-one to each of the members of the health collective that departed for the USSR during the past few hours.

Learning of the earthquake, Cuba rushed to send plasma and a medical brigade to the USSR. A contingent of construction workers will be sent later.

In all the blood banks of the capital, the workers are making a great effort to process the numerous donations that the people are making to contribute something to the help that the Soviets need to confront the tragedy caused by the earthquake. These centers have an advanced technology that allows for the correct withdrawal of blood. The patients are submitted to a rigorous medical exam in which nothing is overlooked.

Dr Julio Bertrand, director of the Marianao Blood Bank, has reported that approximately 30,000 donors will have passed through the Havana blood donations and processing centers at the end of this month. This is one-fourth of the donations made in Havana in 1 year.

Castro Praises Gorbachev Debt Moratorium Plan

FL1212133488 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro described the proposal made by the Soviet Union's highest leader Mikhail Gorbachev to apply a 100-year debt moratorium on the Third World countries and to cancel the debts of poorer nations as being of extraordinary importance

In statements made to a correspondent of the IZVESTIYA newspaper, Fidel added that this is great support against the paying the foreign debt. He stressed that Gorbachev's proposal has been well received in Third World countries.

Fidel made these statements at the Havana airport where he said farewell to the Cuban health brigade that traveled to Armenia yesterday.

Castro on Internationalist Work Force

FL1212155088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1214 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Report by Juan Carlos Roque Garcia during "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] Our highest leader, Fidel Castro, has offered some details regarding the possibilities of planning a work force to develop the country and to continue the solidary assistance to other brother peoples.

[Begin Castro recording] We must take into account that if the talks conclude on southern Africa [corrects himself] southwest Africa, thousands of people will return. We will have a work force available.

We are making estimates for our plans. We have some very extensive plans. We have work to do here and this year we will promote this. Next year we will construct the airport. We will prioritize industrial projects in 1989. We will prioritize these without neglecting other things,

such as homes and social projects. However, we will primarily promote industrial projects that could be advanced. We will also promote economic projects, such as hotels for tourism, which are of great importance; or other projects that could improve our income in convertible currency.

We have great plans. I think that there are people, there are people [repeats himself] for everything. There are people to fulfill ambitious plans and there are people to cooperate in this matter, in construction there in [words indistinct].

We will also give aid to the Nicaraguans because a hurricane hit their country. We have offered construction help in Bluefields. Bluefields was devastated. We plan to help the Nicaraguans in the reconstruction of Bluefields.

Therefore, we will have two internationalist tasks: one in Nicaragua and the other in the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Roa Kouri on UN Human Rights Commission Report

PA1112192888 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri has stressed in Havana that our country has no doubts that the report to be submitted by the UN Commission on Human Rights regarding its Cuban visit will be positive. A UN Commission on Human Rights delegation visited Cuba in September, at the invitation of the Cuban Government, to check on human rights on the island.

During a seminar in Havana marking the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Raul Roa Kouri said if the delegation that visited Cuba is objective, then its report must be favorable. Roa Kouri stressed that Cuba does not violate human rights, as was charged by the United States before the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Here in Cuba, Roa Kouri stressed, there have never been cases of torture, disappearances, prisoners of conscience, or people suffering cruel and degrading treatment.

PCC Central Committee Department Chiefs Meet

FL0912152588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The main source of economic crimes in the country is the lack of control. This was the conclusion reached during a meeting department chiefs of the PCC Central Committee held yesterday.

Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Secretariat, said the lack of administrative control is due mainly to the low quality level performed in many places. Soto also referred to the passive coexistence with crime as evidence of ideological weakness. He asserted that he who shows such behavior cannot be a member of the party or the UJC [Union of Young Communists].

Trade Unions To Discuss Anticrime Measures

FL1212143488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] As of January 1989, all trade unions meeting throughout the country will debate the issues that the trade union movement will undertake in the struggle against indiscipline and criminal conduct in work centers.

The good example offered by the majority of our workers cannot be tarnished by the conduct of an irresponsible or undisciplined minority who are still holding out [que aun se agazapa] in some areas. This makes it is necessary and important for our trade unions to act in the most vigorous, firm, and systematic manner to strengthen labor discipline and eliminate all criminal conduct in our centers.

The document issued by the secretariat of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] urges activating the protagonist role of trade union organizations and workers in the daily fight against the causes and conditions that facilitate crime and antisocial behavior in the country's economy and for the application of the pertinent measures against those committing such acts.

Police Crack Down on 'Private Shops'

FL0912172588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1351 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] [Announcer] Everyone is aware that police operations are being carried out throughout our country to put an end to antisocial and criminal behaviors. The case we bring to you now involved police operations conducted in Camaguey.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] The National Revolutionary Police [PNR] in Camaguey conducted several operations last weekend. One of them was aimed against a group of private carpentry shops which illegally employed salaried workers and several clandestine breweries.

[Announcer] In the first case, shop owners who have turned into true capitalists exploited thirty-three operators. During the search, it was confirmed that large amounts of fine woods, attained illegally, and scarce materials such as varnish, glue, lacquer, wicker, vinyl, and others, were being used to build furniture.

[Begin recording] [Video shows workers working at the carpentry shop] [Reporter] How long have you been working here [word indistinct]?

[First worker] Here? Less than a month.

[Reporter] What kind of working relations do you have with your employer? How are you paid?

[First worker] Well, I am paid according to what the collective produces. Whatever is left, he distributes after he pays expenses.

[Reporter] What is your role here in the carpentry shop?

[First worker] I am sort of an assistant.

[Reporter] You do all sorts of work?

[First worker] Yes.

[Reporter] What type of working do you have? Do you share profits?

[Second worker] This is a cooperative. Expenses are paid and we share whatever is left.

[Reporter] Do you have a license?

[Second worker] No, I don't have a license.

[Reporter] Are you unemployed?

[Second worker] No. I am a [words indistinct] operator.

[Reporter] In what organization are you looking for...

[Second worker, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] Why are you working here today?

[Third worker] Because he (?asked me) to paint this furniture.

[Reporter] When you sand and paint this furniture, does he give you any part of the profit?

[Third worker] Well, he gives me 15 or 20 pesos.

[Reporter] Is this according to what you do? He pays you according to the work you do?

[Third worker] No, this is the first time I have come to paint here. I don't usually come and paint here. This is the first time I have been here. [end recording]

[Announcer] In the operation against an illegal brewery, a private warehouse was also found with a large amount of empty bottles. While people stand in line to get beer, these individuals acquire, in an unscrupulous way, large amounts that they later sell, at times, double the official price. In almost every case, these citizens, as a result of their activities, have automobiles and other goods which make evident the lucrative results of their illegal actions.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] This is completely illegal.

[Second unidentified speaker] What I wanted to say is that the equipment was lent to me so I could do work I was going to do.

[First speaker] But you have had this for years.

[Second speaker] No, the (?pick-up trucks) yes. I have had them for almost 2 years. [words indistinct]

[First speaker] [Words indistinct] it's been years and you kept them. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Are you a small farmer?

[Third speaker] I used to be.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Third speaker] [Words indistinct] My brother and I work together.

[Reporter] Does your brother have a license?

[Third speaker] He has the truck and we work together.

[Reporter] Do you have a truck also?

[Third speaker] No, he does.

[Reporter] Did he buy the car recently?

[Third speaker] No, he has had it for years.

[Reporter] Why does it have new plates?

[Fourth speaker] [Words indistinct] Havana. I changed it for a 1957 Dodge I used to have. I bought it in 1972.

[Reporter] How long ago did you get it?

[Fourth speaker] About 4 or 5 months. [end recording]

[Announcer] After the required investigations are completed, those violating the socialist law will have to respond for their actions in the tribunals. Once more, the PNR, the armed arm of the people, makes its presence known to those who persist in maintaining a behavior which is about to disappear from our society.

Businessman Ends Indian Visit, Meets Officials

PA1112193888 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Cuban Chamber of Commerce President Julio Garcia Olivera has concluded a visit to India, where he met with officials to promote bilateral economic and commercial relations. Garcia Olivera told reporters that Indian officials had expressed interest in increasing ties

with Cuba, as well as with Latin America in general. For this reason, he added, a 14-member Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation will visit Cuba next year.

Increase in Cuban-Romanian Trade Expected

FL1212232688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2057 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Lina Ciobanu, member of the Political Executive Committee of the Romaninan Communist Party and deputy prime minister of the Council of Ministers, received today in Bucharest Neil Ruiz Guerra, Cuban ambassador to Romania.

During the meeting, Ciobanu—who is also member of the [Cuban-Romanian] joint cooperation committee—and the Cuban diplomat discussed subjects related to the next meeting of the intergovernmental organization. The Cuban and Romanian representatives also analyzed matters on the progress of the negotiations which will result with a commercial protocol between the two countries for the period of 1989.

Jose de la Fuente, Cuban vice minister of foreign trade, who also attended the meeting said that an increase in trade between Cuba and Romania is expected for next year.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Jones Cited on Resolution of Venezuelan Problem

FL1212193788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1541 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 12, CANA—External affairs minister, Ben Jones, has credited diplomatic pressure by his 133-square-mile island on Venezuela for action by Caracas to finally settle a three-month-old row over arrest of six Grenadians on smuggling charges by Venezuelan authorities. Jones said in a radio broadcast at the weekend, that Venezuela felt "somewhat uncomfortable" because of the diplomatic pressure applied on the South American Republic by Grenada.

He said that Venezuela had sent a message to Grenada acknowledging that the incident had adversely affected Caracas, and urging Grenada to "cool down the heat." Jones earlier warned that Grenada would rethink its relations with Venezuela in light of the incident and failure to resolve the problem speedily.

Authorities on the Venezuelan island of Margarita arrested the Grenadians September 21 on charges of trying to smuggle 15,000 dollars (U.S.) worth of goods banned for export by Caracas.

A Venezuela magistrate ruled last Friday that the six could return to Grenada for Christmas, but they will be required to reappear before him January 7 when he will hand down suspended sentences and levy fines against them.

Development Bank Provides $20.4 Million Loan

FL1212145988 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] It looks like Jamaica will be getting a further boost to help reconstruct from Hurricane Gilbert. A loan totaling $20.4 million has been approved by the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank for Jamaica, Dominica, and the Bahamas.

Fifteen million dollars of the loan will go to Jamaica to help with Hurricane Gilbert relief. It is estimated that the hurricane did a billion dollars worth of damage in Jamaica.

Other funds include $3 million going to Dominica for agriculture, industry, and housing. And the Bahamas will get $2 million for tourism development in Eleuthera.

Antigua and Barbuda

PRC Delegation Concludes Talks, Pledges Aid

FL1212203788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1946 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Dec 12, CANA—A delegation from the People's Republic of China has ended five days of talks here pledging continued financial and technical assistance to Antigua and Barbuda. A spokesman for the Chinese delegation promised an interest-free loan of five million yuan (1 U.S. dollar; 3.70 yuan), and a grant of two million yuan. Additionally, China will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, and donate a set of 350 chairs and desks for use in local schools. The five-million-yuan loan will be used to construct an overhead bridge at an area known as Creekside.

During the visit, the delegation, led by assistant minister in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, Wang Wendong, initialled a protocol and technical assistance agreement with the government. The Chinese met top officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economic Development, Finance, Education and Agriculture.

Dominican Republic

President Calls for Jorge Blanco's Release

FL1312115388 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer has declared that former President Jorge Blanco should be released from jail while awaiting trial on corruption charges. Mr Balaguer's suggestion was that bail be set or that a writ of habeas corpus be issued for humanitarian reasons.

The president's statement came shortly after the nation's attorney general denied the petition presented by members of Dr Jorge Blanco's Dominican Revolutionary Party asking that he be placed under house arrest due to a prolonged

cardiac condition. The attorney general explained that the concept of house arrest does not exist under Dominican law and no date has been set for the new trial.

Grenada

Blaize Flown to U.S. Hospital; Surgery 'Likely'

FL1212132288 Bridgetown CANA in English 2048 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 11, CANA—Grenada's ailing Prime Minister Herbert Blaize was flown to a United States Army hospital in Washington D.C. Sunday to seek treatment for a prostate gland disorder, government and medical sources said. Blaize, who has been a patient at the St. George's general hospital since Tuesday, was flown out at 1.12 p.m. (local time) in a C-141 U.S. military aircraft.

He stepped on board the plane along with his wife Venitia, Grenadian Doctor Edgar Weithers, a senior nursing aide, and his personal security. Authoritative sources told CANA that the plane was expected to make a refueling stop at the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo Bay. The Grenadian prime minister was taken to the airport by ambulance.

On hand to see him off were external affairs minister Ben Jones, who is now acting as prime minister, as well as Minister of State for Finance Felix Alexander. Others included Ploice Commissioner Cosmos Raymond, Blaize's special advisor Albert Xavier, security advisor Glen Mignon, and U.S. Ambassador to Grenada Ford Cooper. [name and title as received]

Eyewitnesses report seeing security officials at the airport prevent a local reporter from trying to take photographs of the prime minister. [sentence as received]

The aircraft is taking Blaize to the Walter Reed Army Hospital where he has been receiving regular radiology treatment in the last four years for a prostate gland disorder.

When the Grenadian leader was rushed to the local hospital last week, the Government Information Service (GIS) first said it was for a urinological problem. GIS then started describing his injury as a "partial intestinal obstruction" and on Friday night, Jones in a radio broadcast said that Blaize was receiving treatment for "an abdominal problem."

Medical sources however said that during his stay at the hospital, Blaize was receiving anti-biotic treatment for an inflamed prostate gland. One source who asked not the be named said surgery in the United States was likely.

Haiti

Soldier Murdered; Police Arrest Many

FL1212184388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpts] On the morning of Saturday 10 December, while speeches regarding human rights were being delivered—at the 40th anniversary of the declaration of human rights—people were being arrested and mistreated on Rue (Tiremasse). A soldier from the Air Corps named (Marc Ely) died Friday night inside his house on Rue (Tiremasse); and his wife Leone was shot and seriously wounded. A revolver was found (?on) the bed where the couple was lying.

The military arrests many people in the area because they do not think the killing was a crime of passion, but rather a murder. Some of the people arrested were released after having been treated poorly. Others were still in jail Saturday morning being held for investigation. We will listen to statements by some of the people released.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Criminal Investigations came, Cafeteria came, Fort Dimanche came. They came here last night. They were there at 2300 [time as heard]. They arrested many people in the neighborhood. [passage omitted] [end recording]

We must point out that the young people said they were subjected to all this brutal manhandling before they were even questioned. Even before the authorities found out what exactly had happened, they mistreated the people; and they did this on 10 December, the very day they were celebrating human rights in Haiti—for the government too had decreed the week of 5-10 December Human Rights Week.

Doctor Deported From Dominican Republic

FL1212181888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1400 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Dominican authorities on Friday afternoon deported Dr Paul Etienne, who has been acting as coordinator for the Good Samaritan Center. He was taken to the border at Jimani in a Dominican police jeep.

Dr Etienne arrived in Haiti empty-handed on Friday evening, without having been given time to gather his possessions or see anyone. He said the Dominican authorities never said why they were doing this. He accused the officials from the Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo of complicity in this affair. Dr Etienne links his (?expulsion) to a number of actions taken by him to allow some 30 Haitians from the (Matamamon) sugar camp to return to Haiti.

[Begin recording] [Etienne] (?At) immigration they took my passport and my residency document, and then sent me back to jail. I slept there Thursday night. On Friday

at 1330, they took me out of the cell and asked me a few questions. The jeep that was to take me to Jimani was there waiting for me. After the interview, they sent me back [to Haiti].

[Reporter] Can you tell me why they are harassing you? Why they threw you out?

[Etienne] No, because they didn't say anything to me. To this day, I still don't know. [passage omitted] This was the first time I had ever been in jail, and I hope it was the last. They did not touch me. They did not beat me or anything; nevertheless, I was very tense. It was not a pleasant experience. [passage omitted]

When I first arrived, before they locked me up, I was allowed to call. However, after Thursday afternoon, they did not allow me to make any more phone calls. Every time I wanted to call they said they had to have orders, and that the major or colonel had not yet authorized it, and so forth. They kept me around until they deported me. [passage omitted]

I was not involved in repatriating Haitians. I was just a go-between. [passage omitted] It is the embassy that is supposed to take care of repatriating Haitians. What I did was to intercede with.... [changes thought] I served as a sort of go-between between the Haitians and the Haitian Embassy, to tell the embassy that they needed to come back, so that the embassy could go and do whatever needed to be done for them. But I myself did not repatriate them, for I know that is not my duty. First of all, I didn't take them there, and so forth. [passage omitted]

I had recently pressured the Haitian Embassy. [passage omitted] They said no, they didn't have any money. So I used to push them now and then—until they repatriated the people. [passage omitted] That is the kind of meeting I had with the embassy. I interceded with them for the Haitians. And then, the next day, the DNI [National Directorate of Investigations], the Dominican secret police, came and got me.

[Reporter] So you link the embassy to what happened?

[Etienne] Yes, until I know—or rather until the Dominican Republic says—why I was deported, I consider the embassy responsible. [end recording]

Paul Etienne asks that the government intervene in this matter. He asks that the Haitian Government ask for an explanation of why he was thrown out; that the Haitian Government ask the Dominican authorities to rescind the measures against him; and, especially, that the Haitian Government change the personnel at the Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo.

Dr Etienne has been living in the Dominican Republic for the past 3 years. He worked at the medical section of the Good Samaritan Center, where he had in mid-1988 replaced Dr (Faublas Simon Joseph), as interim coordinator. [passage omitted]

Each time we contacted it, the Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo was never able to provide any information on Dr Etienne's case; however, the Haitian Foreign Ministry here said it had ordered the embassy to concern itself with this matter. [passage omitted]

Patriotic Unitarian Bloc Alliance Dissolved

FL1212180688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The National Patriotic Movement of 28 November, MNP-28; Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, Panpra; and National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti, PNDPH—which in December 1986 came together to form the Patriotic Unitarian Bloc, BIP—express their satisfaction with the results this alliance yielded. They say: During its 2 years in operation, the BIP participated in the Haitian people's struggle for democracy.

However, say these three groups in their joint communique, because of the new particulars of the juncture and the need to work for broader unity, for the broadest possible unity, these three organizations have jointly decided to dissolve the alliance they formed in 1986. Consequently, they say, the BIP is hereby dissolved.

The BIP is being dissolved in order to give each of the parties enough latitude to carry out its activities the way it would like. Thus, they say, as of the publication of this communique, all initiatives and negotiations undertaken in the name of the BIP, whether in Haiti or abroad, are hereby suppressed.

Thus, MNP-28, Panpra, and PNDPH—which made up the BIP—are each now going their own way. This is what is announced in the joint MNP-28, Panpra, and PNDPH communique. The agreement signed in December of 1986 is no longer in effect, and each party is now going its own way. There is no longer any BIP. Each party is henceforth acting on its own.

Montserrat

UK's Eggar Heads Off Confrontation Over Aid

FL1212141288 Bridgetown CANA in English 2129 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Dec 10, CANA—Britain's undersecretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Tim Eggar, on Saturday steered away from an apparent confrontation course with chief minister, John Osborne, by the clearing the air on reports that he described the chief minister's statements on the level of British aid to this colony as "rubbish".

Eggar, who flew in here Friday at the head of the three-man delegation for talks with government and opposition figures, told a news conference it was not Osborne's comments that were rubbish, but a reporter's suggestion that Montserrat receives less aid that other British Caribbean dependencies.

The visiting British official and the chief minister were expected to cross swords over the issue, sparked by Britain's refusal to grant emergency medical treatment to five-year old Montserratian hole-in-the-heart patient, Marquita Ogarro.

But the two men held what appeared to be amiable talks this morning, with Eggar hearing an appeal from the chief minister for more British development aid for Montserrat.

Osbourne said funds are regently needed to expand this island's sole Blackburne airport, and to press ahead with the multi-million dollar Little Bay marina project in the north of the island.

Eggar told the news conference Britain would "look closely" at requests for development aid from the Government of Montserrat, and suggested funding might be forthcoming if a good economic case is made out for the aid.

On the controversial questions of health care for British dependencies, Eggar pointed out that Falkland islanders, who were cited as being beneficiaries of emergency British medical aid—unlike Montserrat—suffered invasion by Argentine forces in 1982.

"Prior to that invasion, all that advanced medical care was provided to the people of the Falkland Islands by the countries of South america," Eggar said. He said there are now no links between the Falklands and South America, so the "only way" in which they could get assistance is from the United Kingdom.

He said Montserrat has "exactly the same relationship" in terms of health care, as all other British dependent territories in the Caribbean. Eggar said Montserrat is responsible for the health care of its people, and it is up to the colony to ensure adequate standards of health for all its people. He also suggested that a recripocal health service arrangement, where Montserratians in the UK get medical treatment and UK citizens here get similar treatment, works "heavily" in Montserrat's favour.

Eggar and his delegation leave here later today for Anguilla.

Trinidad and Tobago

Canadian Visa Restrictions in Effect 11 Dec

FL1212142688 Bridgetown CANA in English 1537 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 11, CANA—Scores of Trinidad and Tobago citizens found themselves forced to apply at the last minute on Sunday for visas to fly to Canada this weekend as the Canadian Government announced new visa restrictions to Trinidad and Tobago effective from midnight Saturday. One hundred people, with flights booked for Sunday and Monday, were lining up and filling out forms from around 8 am Sunday outside the Canadian High Commission in Port-of Spain as the office opened specially from 9 am Sunday to accommodate the new restrictions.

The Canadian government announced late Saturday that Trinidadians and Tobagonians would need visas to enter Canada following an influx of over 23,000 Trinidad and Tobago citizens this year seeking "refugee" status.

Over the last month, the Canadian authorities had expressed concern over the growing tendency for people leaving recession-hit Trinidad and Tobago, and seeking to move the Canada through the legal loophole of arriving and then claiming refugee status.

"Under the United Nations Convention, which both Canada and Trinidad and Tobago signed, a refugee is defined as a person who has a well-founded fear of persuction for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group of political opinion, "a statement from the Canadian High Commission said here in explaining the new restrictions.

"It does not include thoses who are dissatisfied with their economic situation or are motivated by other personal factors. Obviously, therefore, Trinidad and Tobago nationals do not qualify as convention refugees."

The High Commission said that, since January this year, 23,000 Trinidad and Tobago citizens had entered Canada at various ports of entry indicating a wish to claim refugee status. An Additional 1,500 had been held at inland offices for reported violation of immigration laws, the High Commission said.

Canadian High Commission officials here appeared on state-run television Saturday night advising Trinidadians flying out on Sunday and Monday only that the Commission would be open to issue them with visas from 9 am until 3 pm Sunday. The commission will also be opened for extra hours during the week until December 27. Preference earlier on in the week would be given to those with flights already this week, officials said.

Christmas marks the busiest season for airlines taking people of Trinidad and Tobago to stay with their relatives in Canada.

Trinidad and Tobago's national airlines, BWIA, said that it had one flight to Canada on Sunday at 5.30 pm. Airlines officials were advising Sunday that they would not be able to board without visas and that they should apply quickly to the High Commission during the day if they planned to make the flight.

At the High Commission in downtown Port-of-Spain, the scene was one of dozens of cars, families, and individuals filling out forms, and checking with Commission officials about the new procedure.

High Commission security insisted that only those flying out today on Monday would be allowed forms to apply for visas Sunday. The Commission has offered speedy application for visas.

Most people filling out forms at the Commission told CANA that they thought the new restrictions were necessary but inconvenient and would have liked earlier notice.

"I think its necessary. There seems to have been a lot of problems with Trinidadians going to Canada and its unfortunate that I have to be here this morning," one businessman who is due to fly out on Monday told CANA.

"But, as they say in Trinidad, Peter pays for Paul and Paul has to pay for all... so my name is officially Paul," he said. "I found out last night. I'm flying tomorrow. I think there should have been at least a week before notice... I have three children returning with me... I think it was necessary but they should have given people some notice," one women in the queue said.

Trinidad and Tobago's external affairs, Senator Sahadeo Basdeo, who flew back to Trinidad Saturday night, said he had pleaded with Canada not to implement the new restrictions.

"They entry of Trinidadians into Canada... that growth has in fact increased considerably from January to this present time and it is because of that the Canadian authorities have been forced, despite my own overtures, despite the overtures I'm sure of a number of people, to take the action which they have," Basdeo said.

Immigration figures here have shown a marked increase in Trinidadians leaving particulary for the United States and Canada as falling oil prices have led to a decline in this country's petroleum-based economy.

With strict restrictions already in place for immigration to the United States, many Trinidad and Tobago citizens have apparently migrated to Canada. The United States Embassy in Port-of-Spain this year reported a marked increase in the number of Trinidadians applying to visit United States for a vacation.

Turks and Caicos

Police Foil Cuban Hijacking Attempt 11 Dec

FL1212134088 Bridgetown CANA in English 0016 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Grand Turks, Turks and Caicos, Dec 11, CANA—Turks and Caicos police on Sunday overpowered a Cuban hijacker after TWA flight 469, on San Juan to Miami service, was diverted to the Turks and Caicos, Chief Minister Oswald Skippings said. He told CANA nobody was injured in the near one and a half hour incident at the airport and the man had been held pending any charges being brought against him. His name was not immediately available.

The hijacker had demanded to go to Cuba, claiming he had a bomb with him and thought he had landed there when the aircraft arrived here at about 12.09 pm (Eastern Caribbean Time), it was reported.

Chief Minister Skippings said once the plane was on the ground the man was overpowered by police. The chief minister added that the situation was successfully resolved and demonstrated "to the world we are not going to accommodate terrorists or highjackers."

"I would like to stress that we will not bargain or compromise our position. We will not give in to the demands of any such terrorist that makes the mistake of coming to our lovely island," Chief Minister Skippings said.

The TWA plane left here around 5.30 pm after all baggage was removed from the aircraft and searched.

Soviet Deputy on Development, Other Issues
PA1312022688 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Dec 88 pp 4-A, 37-A

[Report by Jaime Duran—quotation marks as published]

[Text] P.K. Khabibullayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, said as he departed for Moscow yesterday that he had "spoken briefly with President Salinas de Gortari and offered a specific project to aid Mexican development. I also proposed that Central American countries reduce their arms stockpiles, as the United States is planning at a later date. The people can benefit from the money presently being used in the arms race."

Khabibullayev said "that at the United Nations, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev invited the United States to remove the nuclear threat and do away with chemical and biological weapons, which place the world's future in doubt. "Once the arsenals are eliminated we can use that capital to solve development problems, eliminate hunger, eradicate disease and misery, and promote education."

Speaking from the diplomatic lounge at the Mexico City International Airport, Khabibullayev said, "I talked with President Salinas de Gortari about Mexican-Soviet relations and we have prepared a long-term, extensive cooperation program, to be signed in the near future. I fully share President Salinas de Gortari's views on the foreign debt issue."

The Soviet official emphasized that "now more than ever, this visit to Mexico has confirmed our new political thinking and we are pleased to see that the Mexican and Soviet people are united. Both groups understand the need to outlaw nuclear war and guarantee a better future for the next generation. We are pleased that our peoples understand the need to avoid mass-extermination, to guarantee world security, and to establish international, democratic, strong, and stable relations between Mexico and the USSR. The necessary conditions for the proper development of those relations already exist."

Khabibullayev said that Mexico and the USSR agree that bilateral relations must be promoted and that together they have created a fair basis on which to promote bilateral economic, scientific, cultural, and technical cooperation. The two countries have the necessary potential. They are both committed to development and are similar in many respects. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would be informed of these ideas.

The Soviet official said "he does not think CPSU leader Mikhail Gorbachev would be able to visit Mexico in the next 2 or 3 years because he has a very busy agenda. The visit, however, would take place at a time suitable for the two countries." Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Seergev approved the visit.

Ambassador Seergev said that "we know about the earthquake that damaged the Armenian region in the Caucasus. We know of the deaths and the property damage, but the [Soviet] State Commission for Natural Disasters is already at work and the disaster will not prevent Mikhail Gorbachev from continuing his visit to the United States and then to Cuba as scheduled."

Khabibullayev also met with Soviet chess world champion Anatoli Karpov in the airport's diplomatic lounge. Karpov was invited by the Mexican Chess Federation to play several matches in Mazatlan. None of the Soviet leaders, however, met with him until 3 hours had passed.

PRI Leading in Preliminary Regional Voting
PA1312024288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] [Announcer] Our correspondent Juan Gomez reports live from Guanajuato State on preliminary election results there:

[Gomez] Although vote counting has not yet ended, an updated report on the 4 December municipal elections indicated that the PRI has won 38 of the 46 municipalities in the State of Guanajuato. Based on preliminary data, the state electoral commission estimated that only 25 to 30 percent of citizens in the electoral census voted. These elections have had one of the lowest voter turnout rates in recent years. The voting results in the remaining municipalities will be reported today, and the State Electoral College will give the final official results next week. It is important to note, however, that election results are still pending in municipalities such as Leon and Zelaya, where voter turnout was heavy. The delay has been caused by constant voting irregularity, reports presented by opposition political parties and by the PRI to the commission.

[Announcer] And now we move to San Luis Potosi, where our correspondent will report on the election returns in that state. Good morning, Luis.

[Correspondent] Good morning, Javier. State electoral council officials have officially reported the results of the municipal elections that were held on 4 December. The PRI won 53 of the 56 San Luis Potosi municipalities, but the National Action Party, PAN, won the state's capital, (Villa de la Paz), and (Armadillo de Los Infantes). The official voting results for the state's capital is as follows: PAN candidate (Guilermo Pizuto Samanillo) received 37,484 votes and PRI candidate Jose Morales Reyes received 28,002. Thus, Pizuto is the next mayor of the Potosin capital.

The PRI had easy victories in important municipalities such as: Ciudad de Valles, Tamazunchale, Tamuin, and Tamasopo and Tampamolon in the Huasteca region. They also won Matehuala, Salinas, Cerritos, Villa Hidalgo, Catorce, and Cardenas in the high plateau area and Rio Verde, Soledad, (Villa de Reyes) and (Santa

Maria del Rio) in the central area. There have been no reports of disturbances during the election process. The only exception was when 50 to 60 PRI members took over the PRI headquarters last night to hold a dialogue with state leaders to analyze reasons for the party's defeat in the state's capital.

[Announcer] We will now hear from our correspondent in the state of Jalisco Miguel Jimenez via telephone. Good morning, Miguel.

[Jimenez] Good morning. The PRI won the 4 December governor's elections as well as 20 electoral districts. It also won the elections in 120 of the state's 124 municipalities. Electoral Council President Guillermo Ramos Ruiz has reported that in the elections for governor, the PRI candidate, (Guillermo Cossio Vidaur), received 518,480 votes, the Pan candidate, (Perez Plazola), 232,317 votes, and the Cardenist Front candidate, Jorge Amador, only 54,361. Ramos Ruiz added that next week the State Congress will render the official report on the elections for governor, on the deputies elected on a proportionate basis, and on the 124 Jalisco city mayors who were elected. This information was provided during a news conference last night where it was also reported that the number of deputies and regents elected on a proportionate basis had still not been defined. Ramos Ruiz stated that 2.5 percent of the state's total votes will be required for deputies elected on a proportionate basis. In conclusion, we also report that a group of PAN members, stationed outside the building where the news conference was taking place last night, carried out their famous civil disobediance plan. All the elections in the State of Jalisco —the 4 December elections, the municipal, district, and governors yesterday—were peaceful. Everything is quiet here.

Costa Rica

Foreign Ministry To Handle Border Incident

PA1212202088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Costa Rican Government Minister Antonio Alvarez Desanti has decided to pass the report on last week's border incident involving Panama Defense Force units to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry so that these kinds of incidents can be resolved at the diplomatic level.

The report was prepared by Rural Guard Director Antonio Espinoza, who spent this past weekend at the border region investigating the detention of eight Costa Ricans and the seizure of three official vehicles. The incidents took place in Canas Gordas and La Union.

These arrests are a reprisal. Costa Rican Rural Guard units in Coto Brus have stopped the illegal export of coffee to Panama. This caused the Panamanian border police to react by detaining Costa Rican citizens and seizing Costa Rican vehicles. Some of the detained Costa Ricans were making some purchases in Panamanian stores. This happens often in the border region. The three vehicles and their occupants were seized in Costa Rican territory, a fact that makes the situation more serious.

Apparently these kinds of incidents have been taking place every time the Costa Rican authorities stop contraband going to or coming from Panama. In the opinion of Government Minister Alvarez Desanti, the situation is beyond the jurisdiction of the police. For this reason, he has decided to pass the matter to the Foreign Ministry so that a solution can be found at the diplomatic level. This is what Minister Alvarez Desanti said in this regard:

[Begin recording] The situation must be resolved by the Costa Rican and Panamanian Foreign Ministries. The two countries must establish the policy and actions to be implemented at the border region, because this is no longer a police matter. This is a foreign affairs matter. This is why we are giving a very detailed report to Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal. The Foreign Ministry will decide what to do based on our country's foreign policy, since this matter is beyond the framework of the police and border guard duties carried out by the Rural Guard. [end recording]

El Salvador

Duarte Praises Role Played by Air Force

PA1112180288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2251 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte today praised the role played by the Salvadoran Air Force in the counterinsurgency struggle and in achieving peace. He made these statements in a public ceremony at the Ilopango Military Base.

Duarte, 63, returned yesterday from Mexico City, where he suffered from an intestinal infection and high temperature following his fifth chemotherapy treatment, which is intended to reduce the effects of his liver cancer.

The Salvadoran president participated this morning in the swearing-in ceremony of 26 pilot officers at Ilopango, on the outskirts of San Salvador. Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova; Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and other government officials attended the ceremony.

Although government spokesmen yesterday said that the president would rest during the weekend and that he would not attend any public ceremony, Duarte witnessed an aerial display by military planes at the Air Force base.

The president, who looked emaciated and had lost a few pounds, did not make any statements to the press. He only delivered a speech in which he called on the country's political forces to contribute, along with the Armed Forces, to solving the conflict which has left more than 60,000 victims.

Defense Minister: Armed Forces 'Ready'

PA1012035588 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Interview with Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova by Carlos Armando Rivera on 9 Dec; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Vides] "We know the rebels are going to try to step up their military campaign in December, and that they might declare a truce for the Christmas holidays. In these circumstances, the Armed Forces has increased its security measures. We are going to maintain our normal state of activity and the soldiers' leave will not be cancelled. If necessary, we can intensify our security measures. Furthermore, we are providing protection for the harvest, especially the coffee harvest, in all the eastern and western areas.

At present, the Armed Forces approach is to analyze carefully our intelligence from all sources. We are trying to detect possible guerrilla actions and take the necessary measures."

[Rivera] The rebels have been carrying out military actions since September as part of the next stage in their guerrilla war and economic sabotage campaign. The Army is anticipating increased violence throughout the country. Army troops will soon begin the difficult task of providing security for the approaching elections.

[Vides] "I have seen that the political parties are trying to carry out the electoral campaign according to these conditions. There will be some excesses by some parties and responses from others, which is understandable and

natural. The political parties are trying to present platforms as alternatives for the Salvadoran people. In this sense, although I think the elections will be difficult, perhaps the most difficult in our history, the Armed Forces are ready for the task."

[Rivera] The insurgents have so far not stated whether or not they will declare a military truce. The defense minister said if the rebels declare a truce, the people will have a rest from the violence.

Yesterday, the Democratic Popular Union expressed its support for a cease-fire between 23 December and 2 January. Although the Catholic Church will not ask the warring parties to declare a truce for the Christmas and New Year holidays, it insists that the Army, as well as the guerrillas, should respond to the people's desire for peace and cease all actions.

ARENA Willing To Negotiate With Rebels

PA1112170688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1258 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Panama City, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Retired Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, a leader of El Salvador's right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, said in Panama City that his party is willing to negotiate directly with the Salvadoran rebels if ARENA wins the elections.

Ochoa told ACAN-EFE that Jose Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democratic government has been unable to reach a peace agreement with the FMLN's leftist guerrillas in nearly 4 years of negotiations. The war the FMLN has been waging against the Salvadoran Army for 8 years has claimed 60,000 lives.

Ochoa predicted that ARENA will win the March elections. He said his party is willing to end the domestic conflict through an understanding with the rebels "without rifles or terrorist bombs."

Ochoa, who is also the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly's vice president, said the Salvadoran people demand an end to hostilities and to the bloodshed caused by this fratricidal war.

The ARENA leader accused the U.S. Government of "using fraud to install Duarte's Christian Democratic government" and demanded respect for El Salvador's right to self-determination. He charged both Duarte and Christian Democratic presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena with "being subservient to U.S. foreign policy." In addition, Ochoa said one of the Salvadoran Government's biggest mistakes has been "to surrender the country's sovereignty to the United States and become its servant."

In conclusion, Ochoa said Duarte's government has not solved the country's economic problems despite the millions of dollars received from the United States. He added that "quite to the contrary, the government has encouraged great corruption among government officials."

ARENA Leader Rejects PDC Fraud Charges

PA1012205188 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] presidential candidate Alfredo Cristiani this morning denied charges that his party plans to commit fraud in the upcoming elections. During today's "Good Morning" program, the ARENA leader said the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] wants to hide its fraudulent actions by lying to the people.

PDC Secretary General Jose Antonio Morales Erlich has charged that ARENA plans to cheat in the next elections. Cristiani responded to these charges by saying that the PDC is trying to create a climate of uncertainty to draw attention from the irregularities the PDC has committed during the voter registration period, irregularities that ARENA has already made public.

[Begin Cristiani recording] It is regrettable that the secretary general of a political party had to go to the media to lie in an effort to hide what the PDC has been doing, which now has come to light. I believe his biggest lie was to say that the opposition is involved in fraud. It would be the first time an opposition party commits fraud, because the means for committing fraud are usually in the hands of the ruling party, the party that has the controls. I believe he is trying to create some unrest with his statements to the media, because he knows that, little by little, evidence of what has been happening with voter registration since Ricardo Perdomo became president of the Central Electoral Council has been growing. [end recording]

The ARENA presidential candidate questioned the credibility of the PDC presidential campaign and noted that the inclusion of Dr Francisco Barrientos on the PDC ticket is just an effort to fool the Salvadoran people and to present a deceitful image of the PDC.

[Begin Cristiani recording] If you look at their government platform, you will see that it looks as if they stole our speeches. They are using them. They have been in the government 4 and ½ years, and they have nationalized everything. There is much inconsistency. And now, instead of choosing a person who knows the PDC line—they have founders of that party in their ranks—they have chosen an outsider. Why? Because they want to get rid of their bad image and present a new face. This is ridiculous. [end recording]

Cristiani has just returned from a trip to the United States at the invitation of the Salvadoran community in Washington. He took advantage of that opportunity to meet with U.S. politicians and to brief them on his party's goals.

FMLN Reports 8-10 Dec Military Activity

PA1212161988 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 1400 GMT on 11 December carries approximately 10 minutes of reports on rebel activities throughout the country. The first report states that at 0330 on 10 December an FMLN rebel group clashed with Atlacatl Battalion troops stationed in Las Vueltas. The soldiers "sustained eight dead and two wounded."

The second report read by the announcer is a war bulletin from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. The rebel front reports that mines were planted in San Francisco Canton, Cinquera Jurisdiction, Cabanas Department, on 8 December. As a result of this action, "a Military Detachment No 2 soldier was seriously wounded." Likewise, "another soldier was seriously wounded" when a mine exploded in San Benito Canton, Cinquera Jurisdiction, Cabanas Department.

Another report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front states: "An FMLN rebel group attacked an Atlacatl Battalion checkpoint near the Las Vueltas cemetery on 9 December. The enemy suffered one casualty." On that same day, another group of FMLN rebels clashed with a patrol traveling from (Plan de Picachos) to Las Vueltas. The number of casualties is not known.

The last Modesto Ramirez Front report states that on 10 December, FMLN rebels attacked with rifle fire a Military Detachment No 2 unit in Chapelcoro, Villa Dolores, Cabanas Department. One soldier was seriously wounded.

In conclusion, Radio Venceremos reports that a truck carrying sugarcane was attacked on the Los Almendros-La Asuncion turnoff, "100 meters from an enemy post in Los Almendros on the road between Suchitoto and Aguilares." Meanwhile, another rebel group attacked that Army post while another one distributed propaganda in Los Almendros hamlet. The date of this action is not given.

Correction to FMLN Commander on 'Solutions'

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "FMLN Commander Jorge Melendez on 'Solutions,'" published in the 9 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 20, column two: Make subslug read: [Commentary by FMLN Commander Jorge Melendez, alias "Commander Jonas"] (correcting subslug)

Guatemala

Government To Return Land to Refugees

PA1012012188 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Carmen Rosa de Leon Escribano, president of the Special Commission for Assistance to Repatriates, announced today that the National Agrarian Transformation Institute, INTA, will return property to those people who, fleeing from violence, have sought refuge in Mexico over the past few years.

De Leon Escribano explained that in October an agreement was reached between the cooperatives and the National Land Commission [Comision Nacional de Tierras], whereby land titles would be returned to their legitimate owners. In cases where titles do not exist, it was agreed that special mechanisms will be created for the INTA to return property, De Leon Escribano said.

It was officially announced today that children of refugees born abroad may be registered as Guatemalans if their parents so desire. The information provided indicates that legal conditions have been established so that children born in the special camps in Mexico may opt for their parents' nationality.

Further Conditions Outlined

PA1212153388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1744 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—More than 40,000 Guatemalans living in refugee camps in Mexico have outlined their conditions for returning to Guatemala. The conditions are that the Cerezo administration accept the refugees' legitimate right to their lands and guarantee their security and right to organize themselves.

The refugees also demanded that foreign government and nongovernment delegations accompany them when they return to Guatemala. These delegations would remain with the returning refugees as witnesses that the government has complied with their requests and to ensure that the refugees are allowed full participation in Guatemalan economic, social, and political life.

Miguel Reyes Arevalo, member of the Permanent Commission of Refugees, reported that the refugees would "immediately" return to their places of origin if and when the Guatemalan Government agrees to their conditions. Arevalo said President Cerezo was given their proposal but the refugees have not received a response.

The refugee spokesman added that the refugees are requesting they be allowed to reclaim land they occupied before they left Guatemala. They want to return to these lands because "they belong to us," he added.

Likewise, the refugees asked that the government allow them to organize themselves and that Cerezo publicly guarantee all the refugees' safety when they decide to return to Guatemala. Arevalo noted that the refugees have also demanded that only civilian officials work in their regions and that the Guatemalan Army not operate in those areas. He stressed that the refugees' return from the Mexican camps of Chiapas, Campeche, and Quintana Roo will be collective and organized.

Carmen Rosa de Leon, president of the Guatemalan Special Commission for Assistance to Repatriates, has said that as a result of the current security and political conditions in Guatemala, the government expects 12,000 to 20,000 refugees to return by 1989. Arevalo said the refugees have received support from workers, unions, the Guatemalan Catholic Church, the International Red Cross, and nongovernment and human rights organizations, as well as from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which assists them in Mexico.

The refugees have demanded the return of the land they abandoned because of clashes between rebels and the military between 1980 and 1981. They also want absolute security because "we do not want to suffer the problems that forced us to take refuge in Mexico."

Guerrillas Claim 21 Casualties; Army Denial

PA1212133188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1708 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan guerrillas today said they inflicted 21 casualties on the Guatemalan Army and damaged two A-37B planes and a helicopter in 30 actions carried out in the last 40 days in the country's interior.

The CERIGUA news agency, mouthpiece of the URNG, reported that the latest action took place this weekend in Peten Department, located in northern Guatemala and bordering on Mexico and Belize.

According to the report, the rebels attacked the San Joaquin Military Detachment in Peten Department, where they killed three soldiers and wounded "an unknown number." The guerrilla report does not mention rebel casualties and does not specify how the other 18 Army casualties were inflicted.

Military sources questioned by ACAN-EFE today said they had received no information on an attack on the military detachment in Peten. The sources reiterated: "We have always regarded the guerrilla reports as false."

Honduras

Nicaraguan Envoy Cited on Helicopter Incident

PA1212230488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2039 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Ambassador in Tegucigalpa Francisco Lacayo warned today that his country's relations with Honduras could become strained if Honduras does not return the Sandinist Air Force Mi-25 helicopter that landed here on 7 December.

Lacayo reiterated that his government demands the "immediate" delivery of the Soviet-made aircraft and the extradition of pilot Edwin Estrada Leiva. According to Managua, Estrada Leiva is a "deserter" who hijacked the Mi-25 following CIA instructions.

"This was a CIA action to get the helicopter, involving the complicity of an individual who has betrayed his country; we do not know what he may be receiving in exchange," Lacayo added.

Nicaragua has expressed its concern over Honduras' insinuation in a letter sent to the United Nations and OAS that the helicopter could have been on a "spy" mission.

In regard to that insinuation, Lacayo said that "it would be tantamount to accusing Nicaragua of carrying out an attack, which evidently is not true. This is another CIA attack with the complicity of a traitor."

Lacayo said that he does not see any reason for Honduras not to return the aircraft and that Nicaragua is waiting for a "specific reply" since "a reasonable time has passed for a response to have been forthcoming."

"We would view the return of the helicopter as a goodwill gesture within the context of the Esquipulas II agreements and in accordance with international law," Lacayo said.

He stressed that he could not predict the consequences of Honduras keeping the helicopter, adding that the facts will confirm that Estrada Leiva was not on an spy mission.

"It is impossible for a traitor who is a deserter to spy for the country he has betrayed," Lacayo noted.

It was learned in Tegucigalpa on Sunday that it is possible that the aircraft may be returned to Nicaragua dismantled and that Honduras will not send the pilot back to Nicaragua.

Honduran President Jose Azcona said that the necessary investigations will be conducted and that Honduras will proceed according to international law in handling the return the aircraft.

According to Honduras, the helicopter violated its national airspace and therefore was intercepted and forced to land at the "Hernan Acosta Mejia" Base in Tegucigalpa.

Government Workers Begin Nationwide Strike

PA1212194488 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1811 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Dec (DPA)—Tens of thousands of government employees have paralyzed activities in Honduras for the second time in less than a month to protest what they consider to be the National Assembly's failure to comply with promises it made to them.

After a strike last Friday that only affected a few offices, the 30,000 Honduran Government employees today decided to stage a general strike throughout the country. This comes after congress failed over the weekend to approve a number of amendments to the Civil Service Law, which regulates labor relations between the state and its employees.

The first strike took place the last week of October. It lasted only 6 days, since it was suspended when the National Association of Honduran Public Employees reached an agreement with President Jose Azcona Hoyo and the National Assembly in which the latter agreed to discuss and approve the amendments in early December.

The employees are demanding that the Civil Service Law expand the severance pay period from 6 to 10 months, guarantee job stability, and grant paid vacations.

President Azcona Hoyo has said solving the strike is not within his purview but is the responsibility of the National Assembly, the branch of government that amends or creates the nation's laws.

The strike will keep public employees from receiving their December salaries and their 13th-month bonus on time. They might not receive these payments until January, which causes concern among businessmen, since Christmas is considered the peak sales period.

Spain, IDB Fund Tegucigalpa Airport

PA0912233088 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Dec 88 p 22

[Summary] Tegucigalpa—Government Minister Enrique Ortez Colindres announced yesterday that the Spanish Government and the IDB have approved a loan of $50 million for the construction of the Tegucigalpa airport at El Pedregal Lake, at a cost of approximately 200 million lempiras. Ortez said the loan will be financed at 3.45 percent for 35 years, with a 10-year grace period, because the loan is being made from the Special Operations Fund (FOE).

Nicaragua

President Ortega Speaks on Human Rights Day

PA1012192288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1651 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega to a special session of the National Assembly to mark International Human Rights Day at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] [Words indistinct] heroic mothers who are the living symbol of the sorrow, suffering, and agony to which the entire Nicaraguan people are being subjected.

We began this momentous event this morning by observing 1 minute of silence for the victims of the earthquake in Armenia, which has caused great loss of life, housing, and property and elicited a militant, active solidarity from the international community. We Nicaraguans, who highly appreciate the unconditional solidarity of the CPSU and the Soviet people and Government, cannot but share these moments of sorrow with them. If there is one thing we can give at this moment for the victims in Soviet hospitals after the hurricane [as heard], it is our blood—a bit of blood from the Nicaraguan people for the fraternal Soviet people, who have known how to show solidarity with, and be friends and brothers of, the Nicaraguan people.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted 40 years ago. It was a time, following the war, when there were hopes of a true, firm, lasting, and unshakable peace for humanity. At the time, the Soviet people, who were the decisive, fundamental, and indispensable bastion in stopping and defeating fascism, were devoting themselves to the task of reconstructing their homeland, which had been destroyed by the war to which the fascist hordes had subjected it.

Western Europe also worked for physical reconstruction and, therefore, for the rehabilitation of human rights, which never before had faced such a threat. Western Europe counted on the Marshall Plan, which provided substantial resources. These resources opened the way to those nations' development and prosperity. Besides working for its own rehabilitation, the Soviet Union contributed, despite its own limitations, to the rehabilitation of the socialist states that emerged in the East after World War II.

Elsewhere, countries like Japan had their economies strengthened until they reached enviable development levels.

In those tragic and painful moments and circumstances, the countries of the so-called Third World that did not suffer the direct impact of the war were once again left out of the effort being made by the international community to provide economic aid and to create conditions in which human rights would be respected.

This declaration was signed during those years. In those years, the Latin American and Caribbean countries were being subjected to a brutal system of exploitation and to forms of political and ideological domination that were nothing but the expression of imperialist interests and policies based on the Monroe Doctrine. It was through this doctrine that the United States took for itself the right to decide the political, economic, and social fate of the Latin American and Caribbean people.

The human rights of our countries and our people were being determined by the U.S. policy, which consisted of using both the carrot and the big stick, and there was always more of the big stick than of the carrot.

From 1948 to 1978 we had 30 years of oppression in Nicaragua. Those were 30 years during which the Nicaraguan people's human rights were systematically violated by the existing economic structures, which were designed and promoted by the United States. These economic structures were defended by an economic class that used the Somoza dictatorship as its main means of implementing policies that were a denial of the Nicaraguan people's human rights.

During these long 30 years, the international community cared little or nothing at all for the Nicaraguan people's situation. For 30 years, the international community concerned itself little or not at all over whether the Nicaraguan people's human rights were being violated. During this period, our country's capitalist regime, headed by oligarchs, both liberal and conservatives who acted according to their own interests, was never questioned by governments that established and developed normal relations of all kinds with the Somoza dictatorship.

Because no one cared whether the Nicaraguan people's human rights were being violated; because the murder of and repression against workers, peasants, students, women, children, and Indian communities in our homeland were being ignored; because no one wanted to see the oppression and exploitation to which Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, blacks, and those inhabiting Nicaragua's Atlantic area were being subjected, Somoza asked for continuing international cooperation from both the United States and the European countries that developed their economies after World War II. These highly developed European and Asian market-economy countries, led by the United States, kept financing and lending money to the Somozist regime.

At the time, nobody urged economic measures against Nicaragua to call the Somoza regime's attention to the need for respecting the Nicaraguan people's human rights. No European or Yankee government, whether Democratic or Republican, and no government of highly developed Asian market-economy countries ever conditioned their cooperation with the Somoza regime to the recognition of human rights in Nicaragua. At the time, no thought was even given to using economic pressure to support those who since the 1940's had been struggling for a Nicaraguan Government of justice and freedom, one in which human rights would be respected. We Nicaraguans did not start our struggle for the Nicaraguan people's human rights when the revolution triumphed.

When we talk about improving the Nicaraguan people's human rights, we mean full democracy for the people; the opportunity for the workers to become organized; the opportunity for professionals, students, the clergy, and for all those wishing to become organized in our homeland to do so; the possibility to express oneself freely; the opportunity to learn to read; the ability for us to provide medical care and reduce the infant mortality rate; the freedom to criticize; the freedom to participate in the various activities in our homeland; the opportunity for us to express ourselves through our votes in the 1984 elections; the opportunity for the peasants to have the minimum resources necessary to till the land and to own land for the first time in Nicaraguan history; and the opportunity for the humble, plain people to own a small piece of land.

This was and continues to be our platform. In contrast to this platform, in January 1981 the Reagan administration took over the U.S. presidency with a previously drafted plan of action and with a warmongering platform designed to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. That government began to violate the Nicaraguan people's human rights. If we Nicaraguans want to analyze the phenomenon Nicaragua is experiencing with honesty and a true sense of justice and patriotism, we have to look at it and understand it this way.

We may have political and ideological differences. This is nothing strange. This is a substantial part of the pluralism the Sandinist people's revolution advocates and the pluralism the FSLN defends. We may not be in agreement over political and ideological aspects—and therefore over economic methods—but how can all Nicaraguans fail to be in agreement with this beautiful revolutionary plan led by the FSLN, which brought together all of the nation's forces to regain the Nicaraguans' human rights?

The human rights of all Nicaraguans began to be systematically violated by the U.S. Government in 1981. When the U.S. Government decided in early 1981 to halt aid to our country, it prevented Nicaragua from purchasing food. This affected all Nicaraguan society.

This affects Nicaraguan society as a whole. Regardless of the party to which a Nicaraguan may belong, when the Yankee government cuts off aid, it affects all Nicaraguans who receive aid from the North American people, out of the solidarity of the North American people, not from Ronald Reagan's bank accounts, or out of the millions he could have. When other governments yield to pressure from the Yankee government and cut off aid to Nicaragua, this violates the human rights of all Nicaraguans. It affects the human rights of those supporting all parties—both those supporting the FSLN and those opposing it.

The Yankee government puts pressure on international organizations—the IDB, for example, among others. It did so through a letter sent by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz to the president of the IDB, a letter that was a clear effort at blackmail at a time when a $63 million agricultural and livestock credit for Nicaragua was being approved. This affects all Nicaraguan producers, the thousands of private producers who were going to benefit from those credits. Private producers who are opposed to the government and FSLN and producers who support other political parties find themselves directly affected by a policy that violates human rights.

How can we ignore the truth of this situation? This is the origin of Nicaragua's crisis. Here is the origin of the destabilization Nicaragua is facing. This situation affects, logically, the human rights of all the Nicaraguan people. Nicaragua has lost $12.2 billion as result of damage caused by Yankee aggression in these years. Nicaragua has suffered 55,818 casualties, of which 28,547 are dead. I am reporting figures up until August, but we are updating them because more people have died, have been wounded, have been maimed.

When we speak of 55,818 casualties we include those who are dead, wounded, kidnapped, and maimed, like these brothers of ours who are here with us presiding over this act. Nicaragua has 16,460 war orphans.

When you see, or read, or listen to a report on these figures, they may not sound like much; but we must understand that our population is 3.6 million and that proportionately, if the U.S. population were subjected for 8 years to an aggression like the one Nicaragua has endured, the United States would have 3,829,120 casualties, which equals the population of the state of Kentucky.

When we speak in Nicaragua of 28,547 dead, this would be the equivalent of 1,988,960 U.S. dead. When we speak of 16,460 Nicaraguan war orphans, the U.S. proportionate equivalent would be 1,120,189 orphans. That would be the equivalent of one orphan for each resident of the state of Maine. The U.S. death toll would be the equivalent of West Virginia's population.

We are right when we accuse the United States of committing crimes as horrendous as those committed by fascism in Europe when it carried out a policy of extermination, because right now Nicaragua is the victim of a policy of extermination.

Comparatively speaking, the Nicaraguan casualty toll in this war is larger than the toll in all the wars in which the United States has engaged this century.

This gives us an idea of the extent of the tragedy Nicaragua is enduring as a result of the U.S. Government's terrorist policy that violates human rights.

Nicaragua, which has been the victim of systematic aggression from colonial days until 19 July 1979, has taken no revenge on those who have murdered the people; Nicaragua has not guillotined, hung, or executed by means of firing squads or electric chairs the Somozist guards who were accomplices and tools in the crimes against the Nicaraguan people, and who deserved those penalties. In a benevolent gesture that is exceptional in the history of revolutionary movements, what Nicaragua did was to put those criminals in prison, and to punish some with the maximum penalty of 30 years; our laws, contrary to those of the United States, do not permit the death penalty. This is an international commitment we acquired and ratified following the triumph of the revolution. Our laws do not permit sentences over 30 years in prison.

This is why we have some prisoners who are former guards and others who are contras. They are there precisely because we respect human rights, because we have not carried out the death penalty on our enemies. We have applied an extremely generous policy that has angered the mothers, relatives, brothers, and children of those who have died as a result of the aggression, and of those who have been maimed as a result of the aggression.

How many prisoners are there in Nicaragua? There are 8,565 prisoners. In September we had 1,744 former guards serving prison sentences. These were former guards who were captured along with others who have been released either because they have served their sentences or because they have been pardoned. All of these were captured when the revolution won its victory. These people had an old debt with the people

Those who have a new debt are the counterrevolutionaries. There are 1,398 of them in jail. Of these, 1,127 are serving sentences and 271 are facing trial.

There are 5,146 common prisoners, of whom 2,547 have been sentenced and 2,599 are in the trial process. This is not due to a lack of political commitment, but to the material, economic, and financial limitations that plague Nicaragua's judicial branch. There are a total of 277 former members of the EPS and the Interior Ministry who have been prosecuted, of whom 192 have been sentenced and 85 are in the trial process. This gives a grand total of 8,565 prisoners. This is verifiable, because the doors of Nicaragua's prisons have been open, ever since the triumph of the revolution, to all international humanitarian organizations—the United Nations, the OAS, and other independent organizations such as Americas Watch, Amnesty International, and the Red Cross.

In the peace agreement of 7 August 1987, we pledged to take certain steps to achieve peace, and if peace meant releasing some prisoners, it was worthwhile, even if we had to face the protests and just indignation of the mothers and relatives of those who had been the victims of the former Somozist guardsmen and the counterrevolutionaries.

Therefore, before Esquipulas there had been 2,072 Somozist guardsmen in prison; now, after Esquipulas, there are 1,744. This means that 328, or 15.8 percent, were released. There had been 2,404 contras; after Esquipulas, there are 1,398. This means that 1,006 were released, a total of 48.8 percent. Of the total 4,476 Somozist guardsmen and contras—which are actually the same thing—who were in prison before Esquipulas, 3,142 remain after Esquipulas; that is 1,334, or 29.8 percent, fewer prisoners. And all of this can be verified by international organizations.

After Esquipulas, the government pardoned 1,102 prisoners, and between 1980 to 1988 it had pardoned 1,316 prisoners—Somozist guardsmen and contras. A total of 2,418 of them were pardoned.

Under the Nicaraguan Government amnesty, a total of 4,885 counterrevolutionaries laid down their weapons, and 15,870 Nicaraguans have been repatriated. Most of them were in Honduran territory, while others were in Costa Rica. If we add the rebels who have surrendered to the people who have been repatriated, we get a total of 20,755 Nicaraguans.

To give you an idea of the repatriation policy that has been pursued in Central America, Nicaragua has repatriated 76 percent of its citizens; Guatemala, 15 percent; and El Salvador, 8 percent.

Repatriated Nicaraguans include Miskitos, Sumus, and others from our Pacific coast, who had migrated to Honduras and Costa Rica. They agreed to be repatriated under the sponsorship of international organizations. All this can be checked. Several international organizations can attest to the number of Somozist guards and contras in Nicaraguan prisons and conditions in the prisons holding them. But these conditions are determined by the country's economic situation. It would be unfair for the Somozist guards and contras in prison to enjoy better conditions than workers, peasants, and honest Nicaraguans who are engaged in production and national defense. If we must suffer great economic restrictions, these restrictions must, out of necessity, reach the prison system. When we have to cut the national budget because of high inflation and the deficit, the prison system is also affected.

These facts demonstrate the Nicaraguan Government's willingness to help all Nicaraguans without exception, both those in favor of the revolution and those against it. The Nicaraguan Government is willing to respect human rights. We do not intend to guarantee to Nicaraguans that they will not be beaten with sticks, boots, or rifle butts, or murdered as in the past. The idea is to assure Nicaraguans that they will get education, health, the possibility of a home, a chance to work and produce, and to give the contras a chance to join our society. We intend to demand that the U.S. Government, which is mainly responsible for this policy, free the thousands of kidnapped people being held by the counterrevolutionaries in their camps in Honduras. During the recent inauguration of President Salinas in Mexico City, I spoke with President Azcona, and I told him we are prepared to repatriate 90 percent of the contras in Honduran territory. Those who have been kidnapped can also return. Furthermore, Azcona voiced his concern over the presence of the contras and Nicaraguans who have entered Honduras as the result of this war provoked by the United States. I told him: If the war ends, you will no longer have to worry about a future mass exodus of Nicaraguans into Honduras. No Nicaraguans will be going to Honduran territory, as has happened in the past—some because of the war, others because they have been kidnapped—because the war will have ended. If, by working with UN and OAS, we succeed in devising a plan to have the kidnapped people and the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras return to Nicaragua—there would be some exceptions—but we would be willing to receive more than 90 percent of those people.

This would leave the United States without the tool to continue harming the Nicaraguan people and would let us work more seriously for peace and the Esquipulas peace agreement we signed in August 1987. President Azcona was responsive to these proposals and we are going to work hard and seriously through the specialized UN and OAS international agencies and any others—like the Red Cross, Americas Watch, and Amnesty International—that wish to participate. With economic support we will also be able to relocate these people and give them jobs. Let us dismantle the mercenary forces organized by the Yankee government, which have brought great problems not only to Nicaragua but to Honduras as well.

Nicaragua is known for its inherent respect for human rights. We have made great progress in some areas. In others we have not been able to advance as far as we would like because of real obstacles. We would like to make much more progress in education and health but there are limits to what we can do. We would like to make much more progress in the construction of homes but we have encountered barriers. We would also like to make more progress in food production for the people. We would like to upgrade our industrial capacity to sustain and produce basic goods, but we are facing material limitations; we face problems that, as everybody knows, are obviously not the responsiblity of the revolution and the Nicaraguan Government, but of the Yankee government and governments with resources that yield to U.S. Government pressure and blackmail. That government has blocked our efforts and our access to international organizations.

Nicaragua has no access to the IDB, IMF, or the World Bank; to none of these international organizations. The United States has even blocked our access to the Central American Bank. This is a poor, bankrupt bank, but it had some resources. The United States has even blocked our access to it.

Therefore, we are proud of the efforts Nicaraguans have made in support of the human rights of our entire nation. However, we do not overlook—because we are self-critical—mistakes and human rights violations we have committed as a result of the situation of confrontation in Nicaragua. FSLN militants, members of the Army, and officials of the Interior Ministry have been duly punished or properly investigated.

I am pointing this out in regard to an Americas Watch report for the August 1987-August 1988 period. The report states: Serious abuses of the right to life and physical safety by Nicaraguan Government forces have been sporadic and follow no pattern. However, there is evidence suggesting a pattern of serious abuses by government forces in remote areas of Region Six, including Matagalpa and Jinotega. In these areas, civilians are generally thought to be contra sympathizers. There are several cases in which members of the State Security General Directorate have been charged with kidnapping

and murdering individuals suspected of cooperating with the contras in remote areas. A similar situation applies in remote areas of Region Five. Similar reported cases involve the State Security General Directorate as well as the Army. If reports we have received are confirmed, there are enough cases to suggest that there is tolerance or complicity on the part of higher authorities.

Americas Watch bases its conclusions on seven cases presented by the Permanent Human Rights Committee, an organization clearly maintaining a political position against the government and that is financed by the U.S. Government. This organization is obliged to disseminate all reports it receives as factual without making any prior investigation.

That is, what the Americas Watch organization is doing here is simply receiving reports from the Permanent Human Rights Committee, and pointing out its concerns. However, it states: If the reports we have received are confirmed...[Ortega changes thought] We decided to investigate this and it is being duly investigated by the relevant Interior Ministry authorities and the EPS. This is because in the past we have had cases where, as the result of the conflict we are enduring, there have been abuses and excesses; but not as a policy of the government, the EPS, the state security general directorate, or the FSLN. We have punished the perpetrators of those crimes with imprisonment. We have struggled and will continue to struggle for human rights, which are summed up in the Nicaraguan people's right to life; and the right to life is the right to have peace. The right to have peace entails the right to education, health care, housing, and food. These cannot be separated from the rest.

Nicaragua, in addition to suffering these human rights violations by the Yankee government, is part of the group of countries in the world that are subjected to human rights violations by capitalist and industrialized nations which are refusing, led by the U.S. Government, to establish a new type of economic relationship with developing countries. Those [capitalist and industrialized] countries are refusing to accept a new economic order that would result in the real development of our countries. Therefore, we are suffering a double violation to our human rights. First the one organized by the United States against Nicaragua, which the [United States] has been carrying out for all these years; second, the violations that derive from this arbitrary and unjust policy that results in economic, social, and political instability in so-called Third World countries.

The debt is a very heavy burden on our economies. And if we are going to speak about human rights, and if they [the United States] want to use the sacred phrase of human rights, the United States and the wealthy nations have to earn the moral right to use it because with their protectionist policies, their trade policies, their credit policies, and their investment and financial policies, these nations are systematically violating the human rights of millions of people in the Third World. This is where the proposal made by the USSR President Comrade Mikahil Gorbachev gains great strength and authority. At the United Nations Gorbachev urged all developed, industrialized, capitalist, and socialist countries to declare a 100-year moratorium on foreign debt payments and, in some cases, to forgive the foreign debt. Nicaragua supports this proposal because it considers it a worthy, exemplary proposal by a nation that is expressing its readiness to work alongside the poor, not for the benefit of the rich.

If the U.S. Government wants to use the phrase human rights in the language of its political messages, the United States will also have to make a commitment to cease violating people's human rights with brutal acts like the invasion of Grenada; the criminal attack against Libya, where the Yankee Government admitted it intended to kill Comrade al-Qadhdhafi; commitments to the "racist" South African regime; ignoring UN resolutions and the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; the Yankee government's attacks on many nations; and actions such as the embargo on Cuba and the destabilization in Panama and elsewhere.

If the Yankee government wants to speak of human rights, it must earn the moral authority. It must begin at home by respecting the human rights of U.S. citizens; it must respect the human rights of the American Indians, of American blacks, of the thousands of Latin Americans who are persecuted, repressed, and exploited by the system in the United States.

We also tell the United States that if they really respect human rights and if they want to earn the moral right to speak out on human rights, they should immediately obey the ruling of the International Court of Justice at The Hague and stop the aggression against Nicaragua.

We are committed to defending the human rights of all Nicaraguans. This commitment is included in the historic program of the FSLN and is always respected by the revolutionary government which, amid all its difficulties, always thinks and acts in the national interest.

We are also interested in the protection and promotion of human rights in areas where human rights are violated, especially in the circumstances of war and confrontation prevailing in Nicaragua. We want international organizations to help prevent abuses from being committed in Nicaragua and we also want them to expose human rights violations that are caused by the Yankee mercenary forces.

The Nicaraguan Government reaffirms its full support for the National Commmission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The period for which the human rights commission members were appointed expires today, so there could be no better way to end this commemoration than by swearing in some of the members here today—other members are performing duties abroad.

I invite Comrade (Dr Vilma Nunez de Corsia), the national commissioner for human rights and humanitarian affairs, to accompany me in swearing in the comrades and brothers: (Maria Harman Fenney), Rev Miguel Angel Casco, Dr Julio Cesar Aviles, Comrade Luis Aguirre, and Comrade Dalio Gurdian. Those not present are: Rev Lloyd Miguel Mena, Dr Gonzalo Ramirez Morales, Fr Antonio Castor Granados, Comrade Maria Lopez Vigil, and Fr Cesar Cerezo.

On behalf of our free fatherland; on behalf of our heroes and martyrs who have fallen in the struggle for their liberation; and on behalf of our people, who played the leading role in our victory, do you promise to fulfill the duties that have been assigned to you by understanding that your job will serve the interests of Nicaragua and its people? If so, may our free Nicaragua and its people recognize it, otherwise let them reject it. Thank you. [applause]

Blood Donations, Medical Group Sent to Armenia

PA1212233688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] President and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra started a blood donation campaign this morning for the victims of the earthquake in Armenia, USSR. Accompanied by high-ranking government officials and Soviet Ambassador Valeriy Nikolayenko, President Ortega urged the people and Sandinist militants to donate blood for the Soviets who, in spite of their own difficulties, continue to send donations for Hurricane Joan victims.

The president announced that a medical brigade led by Health Minister Dora Maria Tellez will leave for Armenia, taking solidarity aid to our Soviet brothers who were struck by a severe earthquake. The Armenian earthquake registered nearly 10 on the Richter Scale, while the Managua earthquake [of several years ago] registered 6.7.

The EPS comrades may go to the Alejandro Davila Bolanos Hospital where there is equipment for receiving blood donations that will be sent to the Armenian earthquake victims.

President Daniel Ortega was first to donate blood for the earthquake victims this morning at the Nicaraguan Red Cross national blood bank in Managua. Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Red Cross announced this morning that it will donate 800 bags of plasma.

Panama

Noriega on Elections, 'Post-Crisis' Panama

PA1312004388 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2311 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Accepting an invitation to the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] congress today, General Manuel Antonio Noriega stated that we should now be talking of a post-crisis period in Panama.

The FDP [Panama Defense Forces] commander referred to the end of the crisis and also touched on the current political situation.

Today, members of the PRD's CEN [National Executive Committee] handed Noriega an invitation to the PRD Congress on 16 December. They had previously issued an invitation to Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency.

A delegation led by PRD Secretary General Darinel Espino and including Vice President Carlos Ozores Typaldo, Pedro Pereira, Diomedes Concepcion, and Carlos De Sedas informed Noriega about the changes that will be made to the party statutes—a provision on the power to revoke authority, in particular—and the presentation of five resolutions.

Noriega voiced his satisfaction over the organization of the congress, which will also commemorate Loyalty Day, one of General Omar Torrijos Herrera's main anniversaries.

On this point, Noriega said:

[Begin recording] [Noriega] It is an important commemoration because 16 December marks the anniversary of General Torrijos' return and we, as members of the Armed Forces, have made it Armed Forces Day.

[Reporter] General, do you think the 1989 elections will solve the country's problems?

[Noriega] Election day is a very important date on the calendar, and we must stick to it. Solutions to the political, economic, and social problems depend on the government agencies. Consequently, these solutions are not subject to dates but to planning, work, and administration. Aside from the elections and the electoral calendar, there must be a parallel plan to overcome the crisis. Our country must have learned from the crisis, and we cannot, as a nation, keep talking of the crisis. We must talk of the post-crisis.

[Reporter] How do you view the political situation with the divisions in the PALA [Labor Party], which left UNADE [National Democratic Union], the Panamenist Party, and the Republican Party? How do you see the situation?

[Noriega] All this is part of Panama's folklore. Since I was a civilian, a student, and a military officer under another government—both before and after the revolution—we have seen that politicians always act in a way that seems senseless. But this is a part of our nation's unique character.

[Reporter] The Southern Command has said that it will not leave Panama after the year 2000.

[Noriega] Well, what can we do? [laughter] That is a generational matter. It is a matter that is up to the time, space, and generation that has to deal with it. [end recording]

Solis Palma Speech Closes FENASEP Congress

PA1212015788 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2223 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at the closing ceremony of the congress of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees, FENASEP, at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Mr Hector Aleman, FENASEP president; ministers and deputy ministers of state; comptroller general; directors of decentralized institutions; Colonel Roberto Armijo and other representatives of the [Panama] Defense Forces' staff; Mr Andres Zamora, representative of the International Union of Public Services of Central America and Panama; members of FENASEP's elected Executive Committee; delegates; ladies and gentlemen:

I wish to reaffirm, to once again publicly recognize, what Mr Hector Aleman referred to a few moments ago when he said that I am aware of the cooperation, commitment, and responsibility of the leaders of our country's workers in the public and private sectors. I am aware of it, have always acknowledged it, and reaffirm it today: The Panamanian fatherland is and will always be thankful for the patriotism, strength, and the unyielding nationalism of the Panamanian workers' leaders. I salute and admire them.

I have carefully read the report or speech delivered by my friend Hector Aleman on the opening day of this congress. I will read from that report: Up to now, he has always shown—I imagine that this refers to me—exceptional mastery of rhetoric—of course, I do not compare myself to Hector in this aspect—to complement his oratory without being able to successfully deal with even one of the the evils afflicting the public administration.

I do not know whether I come here today to confirm that mastery of rhetoric, which I do not claim to have, or to see how we can come up with a position of genuine unity, with all the natural differences that are present not only within an organization, but also within the government. The presence of these differences is even more logical between organizations of public employees and leaders of public administration. However, the main issue which is more important than any minor differences is the decision to defend the Panamanian nation, to struggle for a free, sovereign, and independent state. We are united in that endeavor. We have no differences in that regard. Regretfully, however, there are many ways in which to focus upon the problem. Each one has his own way of looking at it. Each one believes he is acting in accordance with the mission of defending and safeguarding the Panamanian nation.

Also mentioned here—and I quote, because, as I said, I read it very carefully—is the government's demonstrated incompetence, because although forced by circumstances to maintain a certain position in facing imperialism's attacks, the truth is that in practice what has been said is quite different from what has been done. I can sincerely accept—and I believe it is true, I recognize it—that many of the things that have been said have not been done. [applause] Small things, for example. I once said—and it was not demagoguery, but an expression of our desire to meet our responsibilities—that weekends are working days. However, I only see a few government officials here because—as the English saying goes—they are taking the weekend off. [applause]

These are small things, but there are others that are more important which, I must admit, have not been done. However, what I do not accept is the charge that we have been forced by circumstances to maintain certain positions in facing imperialism's attacks. I cannot accept this personally or in reference to the government team; my struggle, which may be full of mistakes and may come under much criticism, has a permanent goal on the Panamanian horizon: to struggle in defense of Panama. This can be proven by my actions throughout my life. [applause]

I think it is essential that we look at the [Panamanian political and economic] problem not by saying that there are some who are nationalists and some who are not. Those who are now in the government must be nationalists because if they were not, they would have run, as many did. Being in the government, perhaps with different ideas, is proof of your desire to face the enemy. Those differences, which must exist and do exist, are the ones we must sit down to discuss thoroughly, carefully, and with open minds, with the same broad-mindedness you have shown throughout this struggle. If it had not been for the government officials, if it had not been for the attitude of the workers, we would not be here; at least those of us who are representing the national government would not be here.

I think there have also been some things that have completely baffled us. The unity—of which I am a part and for which I am willing to struggle—among the government employees and workers, the popular forces, and the government, over which I am honored to preside, must be discussed with total frankness, just as you have done. This [frankness] does not bother me at all; if it did, after reading [FENASEP leader] Hector's speech

or report, I would have been sick before arriving here. No, no, I have not gotten sick, I am not bothered by it. It contains many truths and also many misconceptions. The report stated that during the seventh [FENASEP] drive [jornada], the Panamanian nation is subjected to U.S. aggression and that the essential thing is the defeat of the aggression. We totally agree with that. However, [the report added that] the government practices a policy of passive resistance, transferring the greatest sacrifices to the workers and the neglected sectors of the country.

I honestly would like to be told—not today because this is not the time for it, but tomorrow, the day after, or any other day—in that way we are passively transferring these hardships to those sectors.

Of course, there are many things that have not been done. But what are the things that we must do? It is very easy to list the problems we have to solve. It is very easy to say: Let us do this so that the popular masses will not be affected, and the government should take measures so that the popular masses will not be affected. These are statements that are easy to make; however, to keep the masses from being affected is very difficult. The problem is that we have yet to sit down to decide how this will be done. Your list of demands are fine, but how are we going to meet these demands? There are many proposals; but let us discuss them, because many are very positive while others have no place in the country's administrative, political, social, and economic situation. However, let us look at them. There are ways of seeing things. These are two different viewpoints. I am not disputing your position. I am not criticizing it. I understand it, but this does not force me to state that you hold the only truth. Let us look at it. We are willing to consider it.

For a long time, I have been baffled by some aspects of these demands. It is said that we are going to place the defense of the fatherland above all interests. However, the government has to take some measures. But when the government is cornered by that oligarchy, which you criticize and which you justifiably say is our common enemy; when that oligarchy, which is the direct arm of the North Americans in Panama and which throughout the years and through historic circumstances—which must also be considered—has placed us in very difficult situations, the problems cannot be resolved overnight. This is the case because the social considerations cannot be eliminated at our whim. They involve a slow process. Just as it is very hard to change things for the worse, it is even harder to change things for the better. We have that responsibility.

Today I share—listen carefully—today I share the opinion that Torrijos left behind a political structure to defend the people, but that we have reverted to the old political structure giving all benefits to the Panamanian oligarchy.

But how did this process take place? How has it evolved, and how did this return to the old political structures take place? Why have we not been able to maintain Torrijos' plan? That is the task before us. We cannot, however, accept complete blame for this situation. We could be accused of not trying to change this situation. That would be acceptable. We are facing this great problem.

There are many similar situations. This problem must be analyzed in relation to a truth that also concerns the responsibilities of the masses: The Assembly of Representatives is the genuine expression of popular will and the participation of the masses [bases populares] in politics. However, these positions must be assumed with a sense of responsibility and seriousness. When these characteristics are missing, achievements are jeopardized.

You have the right to aspire to elected positions as much as anybody, but I recommend that you do this very carefully, because high positions make one feel dizzy. [audience laughs] And if you do not believe this, take a look at certain petty pedants [maestritos] [applause].

That is why this time around I agree. Of the 60 pages [in the Aleman report], we do not agree on only a few of them. [Solis Palma and audience laugh] I share the regret of my friend Aleman when he said in his report that the national struggle against colonialism is a priority. A majority of the Executive Committee was clear about this, but not our mid-level leadership, who found it difficult to convey this guideline to their rank and file and opted instead to echo the rank and file's position to avoid discrediting and isolating themselves.

Political discussion has been lacking; political orientation has been lacking on many occasions. And you acknowledge that this is essential; that political discussion was avoided during the seventh drive to focus on union demands [reinvindicaciones]. I believe that this is needed, especially if you wish to participate in the electoral process, in which you must be represented to defend the Panamanian nation at the decisionmaking level of the national government. But you should have a political orientation. Let this be an antidote against dizziness, a pill against dizziness. Because if that pill is not taken, we face very serious dangers. Many people get dizzy in planes.

I believe that we must maintain all possibilities for unity. However, let us make specific proposals. Let us discuss specific ways to achieve that unity. The machinery of the state and the government move slowly. I do believe, however, that we have done a lot in the past 10 months. Not enough, gentlemen, but having survived for 10 months has not been an easy task. I reaffirm that it would not have been possible without your cooperation. I also say, however, that without the cooperation of the government team it would not have been possible either.

We have been forced to adjust situations. We are forced to view things in a different light. We have learned various lessons. Since the mid-level leadership failed to understand the political problem or did not give importance to the political problem, our mid-level leaderhip

and some of our ministers could not easily change a scheme shaped in classrooms and by so many years of practice to make radical changes.

It was a sacrilege to say to some of them that we could not pay the debt—and we had to tell them. To ask a Catholic to witness unpleasant things [actos duros] in church is not easy. His conscience will not allow him to do so until he is taken to see a few sacriligious things in church and then he gets used to it. [audience laughs]

That is the problem with many people. They have to digest changes gradually. To some, it was incomprehensible to say that we will not pay the debt because this means that we will not get any more loans and that they will be isolated from international banks. That is the truth. They wonder how we are doing this with the fiscal and financial economic structure we have. They could not understand this.

To some, defending the banking center was more important than the fatherland itself, because to them the banking center is the fatherland. This is true. Changing this mentality is no easy task. But this government team, with the slowness characteristic of this change of mentality, saw beyond these mental schemes. And that is why they are there. They are changing.

And today, people are longer concerned whether the debt is paid or not, and they find other means to overcome this, because I maintain that even when I pay 100 [currency not specified] and they loan me 120, I am still in bad shape, because I continue to owe more money, and I continue to go deeper into debt until surrendering the entire Republic.

We can no longer follow this path. We are beginning to realize this now. You realized this a long time ago. That is very good. However, your position and the position of those who handled this problem with the World Bank and the IMF are not alike. The responsibilities are not the same.

When the comptroller general of the Republic says no more loans are coming our way, and that we will not be able to fund hospitals and schools, and that we will not be able to pay public employees or pay the 13th or 14th or whatever month bonus [audience laughs], he grows frightened and says let the money come in because I do not want to face this problem.

However, today we are facing reality and have a better understanding of the Panamanian problem. And I believe that we will have to face this together. I share another thing with you, my friend Aleman: Whatever is done, the decisions and responsibility for whatever is done belong to the government team.

The members of the government team are the ones who have to explain the measures. They are the ones who have to face the rank and file. They have already heard many times from me what you have said. I totally agree with you. It is our responsibility, not yours. We do not want to send any leader to face his rank and file because of our incompetence or because of our decisions. [applause]

We totally agree with you when you speak of the civil service, as a scientific system for managing personnel. We sent the bill to the assembly not just because there was pressure but because we are convinced that it is essential. As I have told the government team many times, I do not think that the strength of a political party is based on its employment capacity. I do not think anyone should be employed just to get him to vote for the party that employed him. The strength of a political party in the government is based on the projects it carries out and on the solutions it provides, not on the employees it maintains, many times without justification. That is why I believe in civil service, because I have another view about how political parties function. The party that believes that by employing people it is gaining much politically is sacrificing solutions for the people, solutions for the Panamanian community, and it is totally lost. This is so because for every 10 men it employs, 1, if that many, will be grateful. The other nine believe they deserved the job and the 800 it did not employ will hate the party. [laughter, applause] Let us not even talk about the 500,000 who do not receive benefits. They cannot stand the party. That employment policy is very bad policy, but these are traditions. That is the culture of the national politics—to attain power to employ people.

The [revolutionary] process did not invent this. We did not invent this. It was born with the Republic. Now we will have to see how with your awareness we can eradicate it. Where is my concern? Where is the confusion I have mentioned so many times? It is the fact that on the one hand we say that we have to face imperialism and that we must eradicate administrative corruption. I totally agree with this. Administrative corruption means sinecures. Administrative corruption means inefficiency. Administrative corruption means shady deals. However, on the other hand, when an employee is touched because of his corruption, then it is said: No, procedures must be followed; he cannot be suspended; let us wait. The evidence is hard to obtain because the person who had earlier said he saw the corruption will at the time of testifying say he saw nothing. [audience laughs] There is no way to open a case in this country because no one wants to get involved. Well, let us report and testify against each official who is dishonest, incompetent, who is a saboteur, and who is attacking the security of the Panamanian nation. In principle, I do not question or oppose the deprivation of anyone's freedom. I have known all the jails in Panama and in Costa Rica. [laughter] I think one wants to be released, especially if one feels that one has been unjustly arrested. However, at the same time I wish you would think about this. I said we were going to talk frankly. I am going to talk about the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification]. There is a list of coinciding positions between the attitude of the IRHE union leaders and the acts against the nation, seditious acts, and acts of sabotage against

the Panamanian Government and state. They coincide: One would rise up in one place and another would rise up somewhere else; one did something in one place and another did the same somewhere else; when one did something then [John] Maisto [U.S. Embassy deputy chief of mission] said something else. There is a list of coinciding positions.

I would like to ask you to also ask your leaders that when they are going to act, they should not allow themselves to be dragged along by leaders—not by those who are committed to politics, who are committed to U.S. imperialism. That is unacceptable. That is high treason, which should be considered. If there is no evidence, then they should all be released; but if there is evidence, each one should be responsible for his actions. We cannot talk about defending the nation and defend those who betray the nation.

I am not saying that Luis Hurtado [IRHE union leader currently under detention] is guilty or that he is not guilty. However, I am clearly saying that his and all the other cases should be analyzed. [Civic Crusade leader Alberto] Conte's is another case. We receive telegrams every day from chambers of commerce and industries in various parts of the world, saying that the poor guy has never done anything wrong, that we are mistreating him. I do not know if he is being mistreated. I do not think so. However, we must review the problem, because if we defend the Panamanian nation, even if he is one of us, we cannot defend someone who attacks us. There is a limit to labor solidarity, just as the government has its limits, and the Panamanian homeland comes before everything else. I repeat, I am not referring to Hurtado's case in particular, because I am not thoroughly familiar with his case. The answer must be given by the pertinent authorities, and I will ask them tomorrow.

I want you to know that we have ordered the creation of joint commissions in all agencies of the Panamanian state, of the national government. There should be one in all the ministries by Tuesday, at the latest. [applause] We should not fear the joint commissions. I think that they will be of great help. If we want to purge the state, if we want to purge public administration, we should create these joint commissions. Anywhere there is reluctance to create a joint commission, we will know that there is a rotten apple.

Let us act. I have always said, or at least during the past few months, that if we do not take advantage of the current situation, of the crisis, to reorganize the Panamanian state, we will be responsible for a crime against the homeland. It is our responsibility, but we also need your help to do it. The Panamanian state must be reorganized—we must take advantage of this crisis—by adjusting unnecessary public spending to meet the Panamanian community's fundamental needs.

On Friday, I went to see the road from Chepo to somewhere near Canazas, in Darien. I was accompanied by the public works minister and the comptroller general of the Republic. I reminded the public works minister of the story of a man who used to grumble to his mother-in-law about all his woes; his mother-in-law's reply was: How can you sleep? [laughter] I asked the public works minister if he thought he could sleep after seeing that road. It was not possible. It was a waste. It was a monument to negligence and irresponsibility. That must be changed.

There are thousands of other things that must be changed too, and if we do not change them now, I doubt we will ever change them, because the Panamanian oligarchy will never make those changes. On the contrary, they will let the road deteriorate even further and then will say that we are totally responsible, which we accept. However, they will not do any better, because they do not care about the people of Chepo or the people from Los Santos who have moved there, because they are too aristocratic for that.

Gentlemen, I also agree that the sacrifice should not be distributed equally. It should be distributed proportionally. Those who have more should make greater sacrifices. [applause] But how? We stated, and let us make this clear, a very simple thing. Let us reduce the salaries of the government employees, including the Legislative Assembly and the judges. This has to be done voluntarily because we do not have the right to do so. The law is very clear. We cannot reduce the salaries in one term. This has to pass to another term. Nevertheless, they accepted the reduction or at least the payment, so as to defer the other payment to the year 2000. [sentence as heard] But when we said, let us also establish a share of the sacrifice on the salaries of those earning more than $1,000, then many cries went up, and not only from the senior officials, but also from employees. [They said] No, not that; I will lose my leadership; look at how you are going to leave me. Therefore, there is a very serious little problem from all sides. We are going to do it regardless of who jumps up. Let no one come up to me and tell me: You have taken away my leadership because you are reducing the salaries of those who support me. We are going to do it. Let us make the sacrifice proportionally.

I want to conclude by referring to your political participation, to the proposal for your political participation. I do not only think it is necessary; I think it is essential. I have repeated this many times because what is at stake right now is not only a personal problem or a problem of a sector of the government. What is at stake is Torrijism, its significance and its achievements. What is at stake is the participation of the popular sectors. What is at stake is the workers' achievements. What is at stake is the future of the Panamanian fatherland. When that is at stake, there cannot be a single sector in the country that identifies with the struggle that will not jump into the arena to kill the bull, which is the Panamanian oligarchy. We cannot give the oligarchy the opportunity to seize power; if we did so, we would not only be assholes [pendejos], but traitors. Thank you very much. [applause]

Government Reacts to U.S. Withdrawal Plans

PA1312025088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0204 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Panama City, 12 Dec, (ACAN-EFE)—The president and the foreign minister of Panama expressed distrust today in response to the announcement by the United States that it intends to withdraw troops gradually from the canal before the end of the century.

Commenting on the U.S. Southern Command's December 8 announcement, Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma said that "it seems a positive step," but, he added, a step that must be "analyzed very closely before voicing a final opinion on it."

Solis Palma recalled that, throughout Panama's history, the United States has maintained "a constant attitude of not leaving its defense sites."

Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter described as contradictory the U.S. Southern Command communique's "preliminary plan" for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Panama in compliance with the 1977 Torrijos-Carter canal treaties.

According to Ritter, there is a contradiction in "loudly announcing" U.S. compliance with the canal treaties "while it violates them in practice."

Ritter added: "Relations between Panama and the United States have become distorted." According to Ritter, "compliance with an agreement—something that should be normal in the legal relations between two states—has become a novelty here."

Among the "violations," Ritter mentioned the "U.S. illegal retention of taxes and benefits generated by canal operations" since the United States imposed economic sanctions on Panama in March.

In recent months, the government and the Panama Defense Forces have accused the U.S. Administration of violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Sieiro Announces New Party Alliance for 1989

PA1312001188 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2302 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Ramon Sieiro, secretary general of the PALA [Labor Party] announced this afternoon that the Labor, Republican, Liberal, and Revolutionary Panamenist parties formed a new political alliance today.

[Begin recording] [Sieiro] Following the PALA communique issued at last week's news conference, we met this morning with several parties of the so-called UNADE [National Democratic Union], which has ceased to exist. Specifically, we met with the Liberal Party, Republican Party, and Gaspar "Toty" Suarez' Revolutionary Panamenist Party. We laid the groundwork for the creation and formation of a new party alliance for the 1989 elections.

Regarding [Authentic Panamenist Party leader Hildebrando] Nicosia, we will take all necessary steps to talk with him and his party because we are willing to talk with all political parties to form a new alliance for the 1989 elections.

[Reporter] What affinity is there between PALA and the group headed by Nicosia?

[Sieiro] Within PALA, we are closer to the Panamenist group because we share some of their ideology, principles, and programs.

[Reporter] If the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] decides to go into the elections by itself, what would be the PALA's response?

[Sieiro] We would send them a telegram in capital letters wishing them the best of luck. PALA emerged after the death of General Torrijos, whom we respected very much; he was a good citizen of this country. However, government alliances are not formed on the basis of Torrijos' ideals. [end recording]

PRD Reportedly To Announce Candidates 16 Dec

PA1312013288 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2314 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Darinel Espino, secretary general of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] stated today that the power to revoke authority is the key change to the PRD statutes.

He added that the names of the PRD candidates for the upcoming elections could be announced on 16 December.

[Begin recording] [Espino] We have 6,000 delegates to the party congress and we expect all of them to attend. The congress will choose the (?300) leadership positions and pertinent changes will be made to the statutes.

We expect to maintain party unity and consolidate the party at the congress. United, the PRD will hope then to begin its electoral campaign for 1989.

[Reporter] Have you decided on the PRD presidential candidate?

[Espino] We are working together on that and hope to pick a party member.

[Reporter] Which party members have you considered?

[Espino] Let us wait for 16 December.

[Reporter] What has been the PRD's assessment of PALA's [Labor Party] decision to leave UNADE [National Democratic Union]?

[Espino] We hope the PRD president will state the party's position on that question on 16 December. [end recording]

Solis Palma Sends Condolences to Gorbachev
PA1212230688 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Dec 88 pp 1, B-8

[Letter from Minister in Charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, following the earthquake in the Armenian SSR on 7 December; from Panama City on 10 December.]

[Text] Your Excellency

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev

Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

Moscow

Your Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to express the dismay and sorrow that the Panamanian people feel for the victims of the earthquake that devastated the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia and caused a tragic amount of death and destruction.

Based on the Panamanian people's respect for universal human values, I hereby express our condolences to your government and to the relatives of the victims and state our solidarity with the citizens of the Armenian SSR, who are suffering.

Mr Chairman, please accept my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Manuel Solis Palma

Chief of State of the Republic of Panama

U.S. Ambassador Accused of Making 'Threats'
PA1212130888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 11 Dec 88 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Luis Restrepo Rosas: "Davis' Threats"—originally published in the 30 November-15 December issue of the biweekly Panama City BAYANO]

[Text] Arthur Davis is using all the influence at his disposal to have the new U.S. President retain him in his post as ambassador to Panama. In statements to a political congress, Mr Davis acted like an active member of the political party involved. He was bold enough to recommend as a presidential candidate the secretary general of the organization, which was meeting in a Panama City movie theater.

Arthur Davis said later that he would continue his struggle for Panama's "democratization," that he would remain here, and that if he were unable to arrange this, he would continue his struggle against Panama, its government, and its people from the United States.

It is well known that Mr Davis has converted the embassy he heads into a political headquarters. It is also known that President Reagan has placed at Davis' disposal a large fund for political expenses, including aid to politicians willing to defend U.S. interests in Panama. Such politicians would receive extensive economic support.

Davis is lobbying to have the new U.S. Government retain the current terrorist team of diplomats at its embassy. It is known that this terrorist team includes experts in disinformation and psychological warfare.

On the other hand, this week it was revealed that the U.S. Embassy has become a rumor mill and that its psychological warfare experts are trying to spread rumors throughout the country. They are doing so through a special telephone system used exclusively for that purpose.

As is well known, over the few past months the disinformation campaign against Panama has taken on the characteristics of a war. In other words, the United States has declared war on Panama. It is a brutal war that is taking advantage of the tolerance of Panamanian leaders who, because they are not following a structured strategy, are not acting with the necessary speed to counter the continuous, aggressive disinformation campaign being waged by Davis and his group.

BAYANO learned that while drinking with his friends at the Union Club, Davis said there is still a possibility that President Reagan, before leaving power, might authorize rapid deployment battalions to land on Panamanian shores and take over the country within a few days. BAYANO was told that Mr Davis' drinking partners applauded when he made the threats and urged him to get Reagan to do this "as soon as possible."

In response to these public threats, disseminated throughout the country by television stations that oppose the present government, the Panamanian people have responded with mass organization. Patriotic men and women remain on alert and ready to make any sacrifice to defend the nation's sovereignty and integrity.

BAYANO has files with much more information about Arthur Davis' subversive activities. Once these reports have been confirmed, we will make them available to all Panamanians.

As we were told by a patriot who is familiar with the mental patterns of people like Arthur Davis, that terrorist and his cohorts could try to act on their own, hoping to create irreversible situations that would provoke a U.S. military intervention in Panama.

[Article is accompanied by a cartoon showing Ambassador Davis with a bottle labeled "Gringo Whiskey Punch" in one hand, while with the other hand he holds the leash of a bulldog with bared teeth that is wearing a helmet labeled "USA." The cartoon is titled: "Davis' Alcoholic Haze"]

Argentina

Envoy to Panama Denies Support for Noriega

PA1312040788 Paris AFP in Spanish 0308 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (AFP)— Argentine Ambassador to Panama Bernardo Sola has denied that he expressed "any support" for the Government and for the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Argentine Foreign Ministry official spokesman Adolfo Rosellini reported today.

According to Sola, a communique issued by the Argentine Embassy [in Panama] on 10 December was distorted when it was reported by an international news agency.

Therefore, the ambassador released a new communique, the text of which follows:

"1. The aforementioned communique had no other purpose than to report to the Panamanian public the illegal nature of the recent military rebellion (in Argentina), in view of some reports by the various media in Panama, [on statements] issued by the rebel spokesmen."

"2. For the same reason, and in view of statements issued in Panama City by the rebel spokesmen, the communique reported to the Panamanian public the [statements] made by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter and by Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma condemning the rebellion."

"3. Therefore, the previously mentioned communique did not express any support at all for the Panamanian Government or for the FDP Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega, nor is there any fact that allows such an interpretation."

Commander of V Corps on 'Agreement' With Rebels

PY1212212788 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1728 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 12 Dec (DYN)—V Corps Commander General Humberto Ferrucci today admitted the existence of "an agreement" between the two officers who confronted each other during the military uprising 10 days ago. The rebel demands include "moral recognition" of the Army, a larger budget, and "serious and profound treatment of the judicial issue."

Ferrucci made these comments today during the ceremony in which he handed a flag to the Bahia Blanca "Lucero" Health Center. He said that "there are no deadlines" or "conditions" for the implementation of these agreements. Consulted about the possibility of obtaining an amnesty for former leading officers, he said: "This possibility was included under judicial treatment, but it was not discussed by name or as a separate issue."

Consulted about Army discipline since the uprising headed by Colonel Mohamed Seineldin, he said: "From the disciplinary point of view, the situation has already returned to normal."

Asked whether there might be another crisis if this problem within the Army is not solved, Ferruci said: "No deadlines or conditions have been established" for the implementation of the agreement. He added: "The thinking in the Army is that all of its members must march equally, side by side, toward our common objective. This way, there will be no unnecessary splits."

Ferrucci then said: "No deadlines have been set. I do not know where this rumor started. No deadlines or conditions have been discussed in Army official circles."

Reporters asked Ferrucci specifically if there had been any agreement between Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi and Colonel Seineldin. Angrily, Ferrucci answered: "If two people who are fighting stop doing so, it is because an agreement has been reached."

Ferrucci added: "There is no reason to fear the word agreement because an agreement does not mean conditions, subjection, or having two chiefs of staff."

He said: "We must be very careful about words, and explain their deepest meanings to those who listen to us. This is a very important and touchy subject, and the people deserve our utmost respect and consideration."

"Regarding an agreement, I must say there has surely been an agreement because when two people dispute, they only stop doing so when an agreement has been reached. Fortunately, an agreement has been reached. The two parties realized they were fighting for the same goals, and that there was no reason for disputes," Ferrucci said.

Consulted about what happened during the meeting between President Alfonsin and the Army High Command which he attended, Ferrucci said: "President Alfonsin listened carefully to all the already known issues, and he gave very clear answers to each one of them."

He added: "I believe the situation is now calm because the president can solve problems politically that we cannot handle. This way, he can find better solutions to the problems."

Asked exactly what "issues" President Alfonsin discussed during the meeting, Ferrucci said: "They were the four or five basic issues of the agreement between the two sectors that were—but no longer are—clashing. We agreed that our common objectives are: the Army's moral recognition, which is indispensable for its reincorporation into the current Argentine society; a serious and profound treatment of the judicial issue; a larger budget and more funds for a better institutional performance and for the dignity of the military sector."

Concluding, Ferrucci was asked whether an amnesty or "pacification" law had been discussed. He answered: It "was included under judicial treatment, but it was not discussed by name or as a separate issue."

Former Army Commander Warns of 'Major' Clashes
PY1212143288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1108 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (NA)—Former Army Commander in Chief General Hector Rios Erenu has warned that the sequels to the antisubversive struggle "undermine constitutional order," adding that if Argentines do not resolve this problem "we will be heading toward a major confrontation. It will no longer be a matter of getting to the brink of confrontation, as has been the case so far."

Speaking to "Video Cable Communications," Rios Erenu, who retired as a result of the military crisis during last year's Easter Week, said that, had there been fighting during the latest uprising, and had the rebels won, "they would have had to take action (to make sure that their demands were complied with) which could have brought us face to face with a coup d'etat."

Rios Erenu reviewed legal aspects of the trial being faced by the former commanders in chief and said that "the Federal Court ruling, which states that the case must go to the Supreme Council so that the latter can establish the responsibilities of the zone and subzone commanders and other commanding officers, is not in keeping with the punishment of the commanders in chief."

He added: "I believe that the problem could be solved through the Supreme Council following legal channels and wihtout resorting to an amnesty."

He made it clear that Army officers "should not be punished, or granted an amnesty. On the contrary the Army wants everything that happened to be remembered. The Army wants the people to know the other side of 'Never Again' [reference to slogan of campaign to prevent recurrence of human rights violations]."

Rios Erenu added: "The military, without exception, wants dignity and honor restored. We want our efforts restored."

He concluded by saying: "However, it must be clearly understood that dignity will not be restored if we seek to accomplish this through actions that violate the components of this very dignity: loyalty, subordination to the chain of command, discipline and respect for institutions." He was obviously referring to the recent uprising led by Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

Armed Forces Get 20-Percent Salary Increase
PY1212144588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1304 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Reliable sources this morning confirmed that the Argentine Government has granted Armed Forces personnel an 8 percent increase, payable on 15 December, and an additional 12 percent increase payable 1 week later. The government also granted an across-the-board 1,500-australes bonus to all ranks.

According to the sources, the salary hike was negotiated between officials of the Ministries of Defense and Economy, with the latter having the final say in the matter.

La Rioja Police Confine Themselves to Barracks
PY1212171888 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] La Rioja—According to LA GAZETA today, nearly 600 members of the provincial police have confined themselves to barracks in La Rioja. Among the demands, they are seeking a net salary of 3,500 australes.

The strikers are inside the Circulo Policial. Several delegations from various departments arrived during the afternoon yesterday to join the movement.

The lawyer of the strikers, Jose Nicolas Azcurra, has said that the strikers began their self-confinement in the Club Cultural in Chamical, located on Sarmiento Street near the bus station and in [words indistinct]. Nearly 95 percent of the police personnel are present, Azcurra said.

The attorney added that the strikers have gathered in private properties to avoid the occupation of public areas.

28th Forest Infantry Regiment Commander Replaced
PY1212115288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0301 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Summary] Salta, 11 Dec (TELAM)—Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Nicanor Bengoa has been sworn in as the new commander of the 28th Forest Infantry Regiment headquartered in Tartagal, northern Salta Province. The ceremony was attended by outgoing unit commander, Lieutenant Colonel Raul Jose Romero.

Central Bank Reports Overdue Debt Interest
PY1312024588 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Summary] Central Bank sources have reported that the overdue foreign debt interest payments total about $1.5 billion.

Brazil

Itamaraty Spokesman on 'Arafat 'Representativity'

PY1312003988 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Brazil continues to recognize the representativity of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Today Itamaraty spokesman Rui Nogueira again regretted a U.S. Government decision not to grant a visa to the Palestinian leader.

The Brazilian Government has signed a UN resolution granting the PLO the status of national liberation movement of the Palestinian people and recognizing the representativity of its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, to represent the PLO in any circumstance.

These remarks were made by Itamaraty spokesman Rui Nogueira, who regretted a U.S. decision not to grant a visa to 'Arafat to enter U.S. territory, a decision that forced the United Nations to move its assembly, which begins tomorrow, to Geneva.

[Begin Nogueira recording] [Words indistinct] the United States would not have its legal status protected by an agreement on becoming the UN seat signed with the United Nations. According to this agreement, the United States has a right to prevent any person from entering U.S. territory who, according to its criteria, U.S. criteria, could represent a threat to the United States.

From a political viewpoint, however, there is no doubt whatsoever that this was a very improper decision. [end recording]

Concerning the debate in Geneva, Itamaraty spokesman Rui Nogueira said Brazil expects negotiations that will effectively bring peace to the territories occupied by Israel.

Chile

Colombian Foreign Minister Ends 3-Day Visit

PY1212124088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes has returned to his country after a 3-day visit to Chile. During this period, Londono visited the Lieutenant Marsh Base in the Chilean Antarctic territory.

Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz and other Chilean officials bade farewell to Londono at the Merino Benitez International Airport.

Buchi Travels to Japan To Sign Loan Agreement

PY1312014488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Finance Minister Hernan Buchi has left for Japan, where he will sign a loan agreement with the Japanese Export-Import Bank. The loan, which totals $200 million, has been negotiated by the Chilean Government during the past 2 months with the Japanese Government and the World Bank.

The loan is designed to provide additional financing to the second installment of the third structural adjustment loan. It has been reported that this loan is part of the new Japanese strategy of helping indebted countries cope with their foreign debt. Chile is internationally regarded as successful in reducing its foreign debt and in complying with its international commitments.

Official Denies Report on Military Amnesty

PY1312030688 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Miguel Angel Poduje, the minister secretary general of government, today described recent remarks by socialist leader Ricardo Lagos as baseless.

Lagos said the government was considering an amnesty law covering the 1978-1988 period to prevent personnel of the Armed Forces from standing trial in the future.

Poduje said Lagos' charge is completely groundless. The truth is that the government is not considering any legal instrument of this type, he added. [passage omitted]

Commander Reorganizes Navy High Command

PY1312014388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The Navy High Command has been reorganized. Official sources have reported that Vice Admiral Gustavo Pfeiffer, director general of maritime territory and of the National Merchant Fleet, has voluntarily submitted his request for retirement.

Pfeiffer's petition has been accepted by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, Navy commander in chief and member of the military junta. Rear Admiral Fernando Lazcano Jimenez will replace Pfeiffer.

Navy Captain (Eduardo Elckers Sepulveda), who will soon be promoted to rear admiral, will replace Rear Adm Lazcano Jimenez as commander of the 3d Naval Zone.

(Elckers) will be replaced by Captain (Carlos Knight Pazos) as director of the Navy Welfare Department.

PDC's Saldivar on Transition to Democracy

PY1212235188 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Andres Saldivar, Christian Democratic Party vice president, has said in Madrid that a number of members of the Chilean Armed Forces are aware that the country is experiencing a transition to democracy, and that General Pinochet will never sit at a negotiating table.

Saldivar also said the constitutional process will only start being implemented the day after the 1989 presidential elections. He added that the opposition is working for an accord among the social and political forces in an attempt to achieve political balance and avoid the possibility of staging mobilizations that may lead to violence. He said the opposition is also trying to continue listening to the social claims of all members of the political forces.

Saldivar said he trusts that democracy will bring order to the country and that respect for human rights will be achieved through fair trials and a national dialogue.

Saldivar ended the news conference he granted in Madrid by saying he is not worried about what Pinochet may attempt to do after leaving power, because in a democratic state he will be subject to the law like any other citizen. Saldivar also said he hopes the Manuel Rodrigues Patriotic Front gradually eliminates itself as democracy is established in the country.

Attorney General Moves Against PCCh Communists

PY1312020788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Attorney General Ambrosio Rodriguez has filed a petition to the courts to summon 12 people to answer questions in connection with the charges he filed against the outlawed PCCh.

Rodriguez himself made the announcement after meeting with Judge Domingo Kokish, to whom he gave additional details on the illegal actions committed by the PCCh.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] The charges were filed in broad terms, that is, against anyone who might be involved as a perpetrator or an accessory. First, we submitted the names of a group of people; today, we filed another list. We hope to be able to give the whole list of the PCCh Central Committee in the near future.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] against the PCCh Central Committee?

[Rodriguez] The charges were filed against the illegal organization known as PCCh and against any PCCh members who could have committed crimes, especially through the Manuel Rodriguez Front. [end recording]

Rodriguez added that sociological and political evaluations of the PCCh document were submitted to the court. He said these evaluations were prepared by professors of the Political Sciences Institute of the University of Chile. He noted that he filed the charges based on the Law on Internal Security instead of Article 8 of the Constitution, which outlines specific crimes, because the PCCh had already been declared unconstitutional.

The judge will issue the respective summons to those people included in the list prepared by Rodriguez.

* FPMR Splinter Group Suspected in Attack

56002003z Santiago CAUCE in Spanish 31 Oct 88 pp 24-25

[Article by Osvaldo Muray: "Los Quenes: The Beginning of Guerrilla Warfare in Chile"]

[Text] An acute aggravation of the tactical and political differences between the Communist Party [PC] and the splinter actions of the Manuel Rodriguez Front [FPMR], and also the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], have developed as a result of the attack on the Los Quenes Reserve Corps in which a carabineer was killed. Apart from the actions of the police as such, the "Los Quenes case" brought to the fore the position of the PC, which is opposed to this type of action within the current political context in Chile.

The "autonomous" faction of the Rodriguez Front, which is on the opposite side, has ended the truce and declared what one of their spokesmen has called the "national patriotic war."

It is within the framework of this "war" that some 50 rebels attacked the Los Quenes Carabineers' Reserve Corps with rifle fire and rockets on the night of Friday, 21 October. Los Quenes is a mountain town in the interior of Curico. In that attack, Carabineer Juvenal Vargas Sepulveda was killed, and a farmer, Fernando Garcia Figueroa, was seriously wounded. Apart from the Reserve Corps premises, the guerrilla fighters took over a portion of the town, and they barricaded the military premises, the inn and the first-aid station. What had happened became public knowledge last Friday in the city of San Fernando, where five FPMR members who were captured in the mountains were put on display. One of them, the uniformed police gave assurance, was the man who fired the shot which killed Carabineer Vargas Sepulveda.

The Autonomous Faction

According to sources interviewed by this writer, the differences between the official line of the Communist Party and the splinter faction of the Manuel Rodriguez Front do not look likely to be resolved, and both positions are moving steadily toward wider differences.

I was told that when the Front split away, the rebels against the official line won the support of 70 percent of the members of the FPMR and 100 percent of the infrastructure. This should be understood to mean funds, weapons and safe houses. Thus the faction still following the party path would be in the minority and short of members.

For this reason, I was assured, the PC encouraged the release of Buschmann from the prison in Valparaiso, to a certain extent, because he is a man with great charisma, in the eyes of the Front, and he was needed to reorganize its cadres and to put an end to the chaos created by the schism.

As a parallel to this, a split also occurred within the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, and a large majority sector went with Andres Pascal, while the minority faction rallied around Nelson Gutierrez.

This development, apparently unconnected with the events within the PC, has been mentioned to explain a curious confusion in an official statement by the official line of the FPMR.

The fact is that government officials directly accused the Communist Party of being behind the attacks in the Los Quenes case. Then Mariela Vargas, the spokesperson for the autonomous FPMR, telephoned to inform EL MERCURIO that the Front was behind the attack in Los Quenes, and also the attack on the Reserve Corps in Pichipellahuen. However, the Front of Mariela Vargas is not the Front of Jorge Salas, who made a telephone call to state that the Front had nothing to do with these attacks.

And it is in the text of this second communique, that from the official Front, that a curious detail emerges.

"To the people of Chile and our friends throughout the world. In view of the events which occurred on the night of 21 October in the localities of Los Quenes and Pichipellahuen, the General Directorate of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front declares the following:

"1. The FPMR played no part in the attacks on the police barracks in the localities mentioned. No Front combatant took part in these actions.

"2. There are in the country today people who use the name of the FPMR in their actions but are not a part of our organization. To avoid confusion, we reiterate that the only authorized spokesmen for our national leadership are the combatants Sergio Buschmann and Nelson Gutierrez, abroad, and Jorge Salas, within the country.

"3. We want to emphasize that the FPMR has not declared any 'war.' The only war existing in this country is that declared on 11 September 1973 by the tyrant Pinochet against the people of Chile.

"4. The FPMR does not believe that all of the members of the armed forces and the Carabineers are enemies of the people simply because they wear uniforms. On the contrary, we know that many of them do not sympathize with the regime, and the triumph of the 'no' in the places where they voted during the plebiscite is proof of this."

The curious detail is that Nelson Gutierrez is mentioned as the spokesman for the official Front abroad, while everyone knows that the PC and the MIR are not pursuing the same path. In fact, they never have. The differences date back many years, when members of the JJCC [Communist Youth] killed a student who was a member of the MIR at the University of Concepcion. This was in the era when the highest leader of the MIR at that university was Nelson Gutierrez himself.

Individuals affiliated with the autonomous faction and the MIR in Pascal explained to me that allowing Gutierrez to serve as the spokesman for the official line of the FPMR is a gesture of support provided by the PC to the MIR leader. He now heads a faction whose fortunes are at a low ebb but which does not want war either, which is the official position of the Communist Party.

Mireya Baltra and Americo Zorrilla, speaking on behalf of the PC and further strengthening this nonbelligerent line, told Ambrosio Rodriguez that the party had no involvement in or responsibility for the attacks on the Carabineers' barracks in the southern zone. They also said that the attorney general is trying to mount a false campaign against the communists.

Another outstanding PC member said emphatically, in commenting on the attacks on the military facilities, that the Communist Party does not advocate plunging the people into a frontal war against the dictatorship, favoring only the legitimate defense of the people. When asked for a practical example of "legitimate defense," he told me: "We do not advocate building bonfires or barricades for the sole pleasure of watching flames or halting traffic. We do advocate building bonfires and barricades when it is a question of responding to the repression of the workers or villagers." "However," he stressed, "the waging of this guerrilla war for the pleasure of feeling like guerrilla fighters is not a part of the Communist Party line."

It becomes clear from this situation that the those who have broken away from the FPMR have taken this business of the war seriously, and in a further act of armed propaganda, a group of rebels seized a small hamlet called La Mora in the interior of Cabildo, where they painted slogans on walls and gave political indoctrination lectures to the astonished residents, the majority of whom hardly know what the Front is.

Rebels Captured

At a press conference held in the San Fernando prefecture at noon Friday, the Carabineers announced that 5 of the roughly 15 rebels who seized Los Quenes on Friday, 21 October, had been captured.

The police communique said that there were only two men in the Los Quenes barracks when it was attacked. When he heard the M-16 rifle shots, the police reported, Carabineer Juvenal Vargas Sepulveda emerged from his home nearby. It was then that one of the guerrilla fighters shot and killed him.

The Carabineers said that the men arrested were Miguel Angel Colina Valdivia, 22, a resident of San Fernando identified as the man responsible for the fire at the barracks and the shot which killed Carabineer Vargas; Manuel Antonio Araneda Gonzalez, 22, single, a resident of San Fernando identified as the man who fired the shots which wounded the farmer, Fernando Enrique Garcia; Richard Adrian Ledesma Plaza, 23, a single businessman living in Santiago; and Jose Antonio Ugarte Gonzalez, 19, a single student living in Santiago.

Reliable sources in Santiago gave assurance that the three guerrilla fighters who lived in San Fernando were the sons of Carabineers.

Finally, it can be said that what has occurred is the first skirmish in something we have been fearing for many years, and to judge from the way things are developing, we now have a guerrilla war in Chile.

Obviously, this never would have happened if this country were enjoying freedom, or, more accurately, if it had never lost it.

Colombia

FARC Proposes Cease-Fire to Congress

PA1312030788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0209 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 12 Dec (EFE) — The Communist FARC guerrillas today proposed that the Colombian Congress examine Social Conservative Senator Alvaro Leyva's peace plan and issue its own appraisal of the peace proposal.

Senator Leyva's plan, which was issued in November, proposes the creation of a commission to study over a 30-day period whether conditions exist for the holding of a direct dialogue between the rebels and the government. In addition, the plan proposes that if the conclusion is positive, peace talks will begin on the proposed dates.

This new FARC proposal is contained in a note that was sent today to the Senate and the Congress, in which the guerrillas also report to the Congress that their 27 fronts and the M-19 Movement have decreed a unilateral cease-fire. [passage omitted]

The note, signed by the FARC High Command, denounces the fact that FARC messages and peace actions have received little credibility from the government and the military high command, which have announced that the military and police troops will continue fighting the rebels. [passage omitted]

Army Reports 11 Rebels Killed in Cordoba

PA1212124188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Colonel Alvaro Daniel Medina, commander of the 10th Brigade, said today that 11 FARC and Popular Liberation Army guerrillas were killed in a clash in the Alto Sinu area, Cordoba Department.

The officer also said that weapons, military materiel, and large quantities of ammunition were confiscated and that military operations will continue in the area.

Rebel Station Dedicates Cast to El Salvador

PA1212203588 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish to Colombia at 0030 GMT on 12 December dedicates its cast to "our fraternal nation El Salvador" and carries approximately 20 minutes of reports citing "sister station" Radio Venceremos. The station gives a summary of recent guerrilla "victories" in El Salvador against "military and economic targets of the crumbling, corrupt, and demoralized Duarte regime." Radio Patria Libre also lists statistics on guerrilla actions in El Salvador this year. Halfway through the cast the station plays Radio Venceremos's theme song, complete with the usual Venceremos station identification.

Commercial Trade Agreement Signed With Cuba

PA1312033088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Colombia and Cuba today signed a commercial agreement in Barranquilla. The exchange is for $20 million. Colombia will export construction material and Cuba will send sports equipment to our country.

Paraguay

Central Bank President: Document 'Confidential'

PY1212121288 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Dec 88 p 13

[Excerpt] The document submitted by the Central Bank for the government's consideration is being studied by experts of the Finance Ministry and the Planning Secretariat, according to Central Bank President Romeo Acosta.

Yesterday Acosta explained that "it is a working, confidential document. The Central Bank did not authorize its release. I cannot understand how it could have reached the press because only three copies exist: One was sent to the Finance Ministry; the second to the Technical Planning Secretariat; and I have the third."

Acosta added that the document was submitted for the government's consideration during the second half of October and that the Economic Coordination Council was later informed. "The Industries and Commerce Minister was not present at that meeting, which is why he was not aware of it," Romeo Acosta explained. [passage omitted]

Peru

Survey Says Garcia's Popularity Declining

PY1212150288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0255 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Lima, 11 Dec (EFE)—According to a locally conducted survey which was revealed today, the popularity of Peruvian President Alan Garcia's administration declined even further in November.

According to the survey of the Peruvian Public Opinion (POP) Company, which was conducted between 6 and 9 December and is published in today's issue of the newspaper LA REPUBLICA, 74 percent of the people reject Alan Garcia's administration, as compared to 71 percent in October. Only 21 percent of those surveyed approved of the administration, as compared to 23 percent in October.

The company reported that the survey was conducted in downtown Lima and that 900 people of different social strata were surveyed.

The survey also showed that 71 percent of the residents in Lima do not believe that a coup d'etat can resolve the crisis.

Prime Minister Comments on Miners Strike

PY1312030588 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] After a meeting that lasted more than 8 hours, Prime Minister Villanueva del Campo said that at the conclusion of the miners' strike there are no winners or losers. Villanueva congratulated everyone on the suspension of this strike.

[Begin Villanueva recording] A document suspending the strike has just been signed. This document has been signed by the chairman of the ministerial council, by the labor and energy ministers, by the secretary general of the Peruvian Workers Confederation, and by Mr Cantoral, chairman of the Miners and Metalworkers Federation. This document puts an end to the 56-day strike.

First of all, I want to thank all of the workers who have contributed to the peaceful solution of this problem. I also thank people of goodwill who have contributed to this solution. [passage omitted]

This document firmly rejects terrorism and shows that, if there has been any type of terrorist infiltration, the workers now reject terrorism and do not accept any form of pressure. They reject any terrorist infiltration that could prevent them from exercising their fair right to strike. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Uruguay

November Price Index Stands at 4.43 Percent

PY0712020288 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] Planning and Budget Director Ariel Davrieux today announced that the consumer price index in November stood at 4.43 percent, and that the accrued rate for the past 12 months now stands at 68.5 percent.

Health Minister Reports AIDS Cases, Deaths

PY0912022888 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 2 Dec 88 p 9

[Summary] Yesterday, Health Minister Raul Ugarte reported that 40 AIDS cases have already been registered in the country, 25 of which were fatal. He added that 95 percent of the patients who died were men, 61 percent of them homosexuals.

French Guiana

Ariane Launch Postponed at Least 24 Hours

PA1012030988 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0155 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Kourou, French Guiana, 9 Dec (REUTER)—The launching of the Ariane European Spacecraft was postponed for at least 24 hours when key sensors indicated problems just minutes before launch, said a high-ranking official.

Frederic D'Allest, president of Arianespace, the company that manufactures the rocket, said that sensors supplying data on the third stage motors indicated faults.

He added that the mission was to put communications satellites into orbit and will be delayed 24 hours or more.

Guyana

President Addresses Party Anniversary Rally

FL1212204588 Bridgetown CANA in English 1432 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 12, CANA—Guyana's ruling party on Sunday celebrated its 24th anniversary in office with leader, President Desmond Hoyte, calling on members and supporters to move forward to win resoundingly the next general elections—"whenever they may be." Elections are due here by December 1990, but there is speculation here that the government, now believed to be on the verge of entering into a support arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as one component of a 3-year economic recovery programme (ERP), may call snap elections long before the deadline.

"On this occasion when we celebrate the 24th anniversary of our party in office, let us go forward in a militant mood; let us go forward with supreme confidence to consolidate our party's influence nationally, to implement successfully our economic recovery programme and—let us go forward to win resoundingly the next general elections—whenever they may be", Hoyte told a big anniversary rally at the bauxite mining town of Linden, 65 miles from Georgetown.

He said the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) has been relaxing while its opponents have been running all around and "scampering around..." But he added: "From now on, we must show increasingly the party's continuing capacity to give leadership; to defend itself; to defend the government; to defend the reputation of this country and to contribute in manifold ways to the process of national development.

He said while the party will experience set backs and disappointments, it must be resolute and demonstrate "that indominatable spirit" with which the PNC's founder, the late Forbes Burnham, had imbued it.

"The time has come for the People's National Congress to get on the offensive", Hoyte said. "A heavy responsibility rests upon our party and on each individual party member, for our party remains the only party with the capacity and the will to act. It remains the only valid option for the Guyanese people", Hoyte added.

He called Sunday's rally "an impressive demonstration of the political power and the solidarity of the PNC." He noted that the rally was being held at Linden, in region 10 which has "traditionally been PNC territory" and which continues to be the "bastion" of the PNC and contended that the presence of the large gathering showed "beyond a doubt to those who might have had illusions about intruding into our base here that they don't have the ghost of a chance".

Earlier, Hoyte who acceded to the presidency after Burnham died suddenly during a surgical operation in August 1985, paid tribute to the memory of his predecessor and hit out at some persons who have been critical of him. He said: "It is fashionable today on the part of some marginal people to attack his (Burnham's) memory. I read in some of the rags which pass for newspapers all kinds of remarks against him by people who, during his lifetime, walked around with their tails between their legs, but this party has a duty to keep his memory alive".

He said Burnham's was one of the greatest contributions to Guyana and the PNC has a duty to keep before the minds of the Guyanese people "the colossal contributions" he made. He said it was Burnham who blunted the thrust of racial politics in Guyana so that today, even though there are still some racists in political life, they do not include racial politics openly on their political agenda.

"It was Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham who gave us the vision of a cohesive, harmonious society. Above all, he gave us the example of his personal life—an example of courage and resolution, of moral strength and integrity, so that today our party continues to be inspired by his broad vision, his profound humanity and his indominable spirit," Hoyte added.

He said as a tribute to Burnham, it is the duty of the PNC to safeguard zealously and jealously Guyana's status as an independent nation and will, therefore, be the implaccable foe of all persons who would in any way jeopardise that independence. He added: "The party sets its face adamantly against those who go abroad maligning Guyana. It imposes with intensity those who would invite foreigners to intermeddle in our internal affairs. It has no respect for those who are so disrespectful of themselves that they go around maligning this government, this country and their fellow Guyanese to foreigners.

"This party will fight tooth and nail anyone who undermines the public safety for narrow partisan advantage."

Discusses IMF Program

FL1212200788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1419 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 12, CANA—With or without the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the Guyana Government intends to proceed resolutely with its economic recovery programme, President Desmond Hoyte told a big rally here Sunday [11 December]. Speaking in the bauxite mining town of Linden, as his People's National Congress (PNC) marks it 24th year in office, Hoyte said that while overseas support for the plan to rebuild the run-down economy would be useful, Guyanese must realise that they are the key to the country's recovery.

His remarks came amidst protracted negotiations between his government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a balance of payments support programme expected to form the key component of a three-year economic recovery package. The government had said it hoped to sign the agreement before the end of this year. But the negotiations are taking longer than the government expected and media reports here quote inside sources as saying an agreement is now not likely to be signed before April or May.

Hoyte told the rally that while the recovery programme has an IMF component and the government is committed to it as one practical way of achieving its overall objective, the government's first duty is to be practical and it "will not sacrifice the long-term interests of this country merely to achieve a fleeting short-term popularity."

The Guyanese leader said that putting together an economic recovery programme "as complex and intricate" as Guyana's takes time and patience, because it involves many sovereign states, each of which has its own rules,

procedures and constraints. He said achieving the goals and objectives of the programme will be a task fraught with difficulties and dangers and Guyanese will have to be prepared to encounter set backs and disappointments.

"Let us not believe that this programme means a situation of comfortable idleness. It does not. It will require unremitting hard work. So IMF or no IMF, we have to proceed with the task of economic reconstruction. "With the IMF, we believe that the time would be shorter and the pain might be less. Without the IMF, it will take us a longer time and would require greater sacrifices—greater pain—but the work of economic reconstruction has to proceed," Hoyte declared.

He called on the nation "to ignore all the idle, baseless speculation of rumourmongers" and cautioned that as the county enters the period of economic reconstruction, there will be some who, thinking that the party and government are vulnerable, might want to attack and undermine our position.

"We therefore have to close our ranks to every level of this party—let us not be naive; let us not close our minds to the opportunities which will arise for political sabotage in our country and for external interference", Hoyte told the rally.

Human Rights Association Issues 1988 Report
FL1212195588 Bridgetown CANA in English
1506 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 12, CANA—Guyanese now express themselves and go about their normal business more freely and political thuggery has virtually disappeared, the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) contends in its 1988 report released Saturday, International Human Rights day and the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The report however said that "the ambiguities which have characterised respect for human rights in Guyana by the (Desmond) Hoyte administration continued to mark its performance during the past year." It contended further that while, on the one hand, "the pervading fear which enveloped the society during the latter years of the (Forbes) Burnham era has evaporated" on the other hand, "certain institutional features" remain in place and these limit citizens' enjoyment of their freedoms.

The report identifies four areas in which the GHRA contends "limitations rather than freedoms have been accentuated in the past year. It listed these as "limited access to public information, police brutality, obstacles to independent trade unionism and the failure to reform electoral legislation." [quotation marks as received]

It said this conclusion is reinforced by the doctrine of paramountcy of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) and the sweeping constitutional powers of the presidency, which give the ruling party a pre-eminent position in the affairs of state.

According to the GHRA, the conclusion elaborated in its 1987 report "is still valid to the extent that enjoyment of the wider liberties provided by the Hoyte administration is marred by the absence of strong constitutional and legal safeguards to support them." "Too much depends on the political interests of the party in power," the GHRA said in its statement.

Dealing with the subject "life, liberty and security of the person," the association said, among other things:

"The application of the death penalty to four persons in 1988 furthered the decline in the humanitarian spirit in which justice is most appropriately administered (and) the spirit of vindictiveness and revenge which pervaded official statements on the issue give little grounds for hope of a more enlightened approach in the near future."

"Members of the legal profession continued to express concern over the brutal methods which have been with increasing frequency employed by some police in the course of interrogating suspects."

"Conditions in the women's detention facilities are a matter of serious concern, especially in view of the higher numbers of women now being committed to prison;" the conditions at a women's remand facility in the city are "sub-human" and the facility should not be used unless both the administration and conditions of detention can be improved.

On the right to a fair trial, the association said judgement in two cases during the period under review suggests that judicial fears of recriminations are not as strong as under the Burnham administration, but the appointment of the former chancellor of the judiciary (Keith Massiah) to the post of attorney general again raised the issue of judicial independence. It argued that "the image of judicial independence would have been strengthened had the government...demonstrated more enthusiasm for the newly-approved Caribbean Court of Appeal." It said a particularly vexed area of sentencing has been created by the new drug act, whose "no-bail"provision, automatic custodian sentences and the length of sentences are producing an inflated prison population.

In a chapter dealing with freedom of expression, the GHRA said the hope engendered that the Hoyte administration would create the foundations for a fully open society has not been fulfilled and contended that although access to printing materials has been relaxed and the privately-owned "STABROEK NEWS" newspaper allowed to function, these gains have been offset by measures restricting access to information." It said "the dismissal of state employees who have provided information to the private media, together with the introduction of the public corporation act are specific examples of such measures and the end result has been that despite publicly declared interest in the creation of a more open society, official policy is in fact, a deterrent to this

process. It said that although prior submission of material for official approval before publication is not required, the essence of censorship—the effective supression of information the government does not wish disseminated—does exist.

The GHRA contended also that another deterrent to access to full information has been "the vigorous use of libel suits by government ministers and state officials" with 19 such libel writs being served on newspapers and the GHRA since 1986. It said the cumulative effect has been the creating of a "chilling effect" on the exercise of freedom of expression.

The association also expressed concern about the quality of life in the areas of health, public services, access to foodstuffs at affordable prices and public hygiene, all of which it said deteriorated in the past year.

Government Affirms Commitment

FL1212195188 Bridgetown CANA in English
1537 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 12, CANA—Guyana has praised the United Nation's work in human rights and reaffirmed its own commitment to the principles of the UN's Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The Foreign Ministry said in a message to mark the 40th anniversary of adoption of the declaration, and the observance of Human Rights Day that the international community should strive unceasingly for the respect and the preservation of the dignity and worth of the human person.

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights constitutes a definition of human rights in the broadest and noblest sense of the term," the message said. "(It) represents the moral guidepost to action for the international community in the area of human rights...It is in short, a significant milestone in man's efforts to create a better world..." the message added.

It said that the anniversary was an ideal moment for all countries to rededicate themselves to attainment of the ideals of the declaration and its accompanying instruments. "Guyana so rededicates itself," the Foreign Ministry said.

Minister Calls for U.S. Concessionary Financing

FL0912200988 Bridgetown CANA in English
1729 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 9, CANA—Guyana's trade and tourism minister, Winston Murray, wants concessionary financing from the United States for Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) designated countries. "... The potential of the CBI to the beneficiary countries could be expanded immeasurably if a way could be found for concessionary financing from the United States to the CBI designated countries within the framework of the initiative," Murray said. He also suggested that the U.S. Administration examine the possibility of "providing continued reasonable access for traditional products" from CBI countries.

Murray made the comments here at a reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, Theresa Ann Tull, to mark Guyana's accession to the CBI as its 23rd beneficiary. He was responding to remarks made by the U.S. ambassador. He told the gathering which included Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte, that certain action could be taken by the U.S. authorities to complement the CBI as it now stands "in order to open up possibilities for even greater economic benefits".

Using Guyana to illustrate his point, Murray explained that the Guyana Government has been adopting and executing policies aimed at fostering a climate conductive to investment by the domestic and overseas private sectors and Guyana's designation under CBI further enhances the attraction of Guyana to foreign investors. "But for a number of countries, including Guyana, there are other important factors which could be critical in attracting investors. These relate, in particular, to such things as communication facilities, power supply, water supply and roads among others," he added.

He said experience suggests that for most of these areas, "private sector investment is not usually forthcoming and this therefore means that the government must bear the responsibility for them."

Dealing with the question of "continued reasonable access" for traditional products from CBI designated countries, the minister advocated that given the gestation period that could be involved in bringing about some investments in non-traditional sectors, the possibility should be examined of gradually phasing down such access in order to minimise the possible adverse effects on the economy as diversification efforts proceed. He also said that Guyana's designation on November 18 as a CBI beneficiary country "is an important indication of the increasingly cordial relations between the United States of America and Guyana".

He said that "while this may not, in itself, directly bring economic benefits to Guyana, its positive influence on potential investors should not be underestimated." He said the Guyana Government would spare no effort, through the measures it adopts, in encouraging Guyanese entrepreneurs either on their own or in collaboration with U.S. businessmen and investors, to derive maximum benefits under the CBI.

Opposition Leader Jagan's Son To Enter Politics

FL1212192888 Bridgetown CANA in English
1534 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 12, CANA—Joey Jagan, son of Guyana's Marxist minority leader Dr Cheddi Jagan, is being groomed to take over the leadership of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), according to NEW NATION, official organ of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

NEW NATION, in a story headlined "A Royal Succession: Joey Jagan Enters Local Politics," said the announcement that Joey (full name Cheddi Bradlangh) Jagan will be returning to Guyana shortly to enter into local politics, was made by his father at a PPP public meeting on the east coast of Demerara December 6.

Joey Jagan and his wife were here a month ago, and his mother, Mrs Janet Jagan, confirmed that he is thinking about returning home.

Joey Jagan, together with Dominican Rosie Douglas and a number of other Caribbean students were involved in a computer smashing incident at the Sir George Williams University in Canada in the late 1960's. Like his father, Joey, who served as an officer in the U.S. Army, is a dentist.

Suriname

Arron Expects Long-Term Development Plan

FL1212191088 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The government is working toward having the long-term development plan ready by the end of January 1989. This was stated by Vice President Henck Arron in an interview in the DE WARE TIJD newspaper.

Arron said the implementation of the plan will cost more than 1 and ½ billion Dutch guilders which will be deducted from the 2.7 billion remaining from the development treaty. According to the vice president, the long-term development plan will be financed by our own means, the development aid, and finances through bilateral relations with other countries and international organizations.

Arron said that from the long-term development plan, annual plans will be submitted. He added that from the annual plans, separate projects will be taken and submitted for approval by mid-1989. Arron said that by mid-1989, the implementation of the projects can go on stream.

Government Proposes Composition of State Council

FL1212194888 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Vice President Henck Arron has stated to the daily, DE WARE TIJD, that the government has made a new proposal to the National Assembly regarding the formulation of the State Council. According to the new proposal, the Front for Democracy and Development will get seven seats, the trade union movement two, while the military authority, the private sector, the National Democratic Party, the Pendawa Lima, and the PALU [Progressive Workers' and Farm Laborers' Union] get one seat each.

According to the draft law, the State Council consists of 14 representatives while the former proposal comes at 19 representatives. Except for the representation of the trade union movement, everything is complete.

C-47 Chairman Fred Derby and CLO chairman [Progressive Workers Organization] Hendrik Sylvester were (?saying) that they received no new proposal from the government. According to Derby, discussions were held within the party, which will participate in the State Council and the government. During these discussions, proposals were made which would be studied by the government. The government would then give its opinion about the proposal. We're still waiting for that, said Derby.

The State's Council is an advisory body to the government and is being chaired by the president. The State's Council must also see to it that decisions taken by the National Assembly are being carried out.

According to Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon, the National Assembly will discuss the draft proposal next week.

Human Rights Activist Arrested at Airport

FL1212175088 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Director of the Human Rights Bureau (Moyvanasix), Stanley Rensch, was arrested last Saturday night [10 December] by the military police at the Zanderij Airport here.

Rensch's arrest was ordered by the office of the attorney general. He was suspected of being involved in activities inimical to the state. Following his arrest, the military police handed over Rensch to the judicial authorities.

At the international airport, Zanderij, representatives of the Embassies of the United States of America, Venezuela, France, and Holland were present to welcome Rensch.